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County's missing children

Special KoS Report

Shocking reality of how vulnerable youngsters, some as young as 10, are being sold into the sex, drug and slave trade and their families threatened

See inside

SURVEY

Does a Jedi live next door?

RESULTS of the 2011 census were revealed this week – and there are a surprising amount of Jedi Knights living among us apparently.

More than 6,700 declared they worshipped the fictional Star Wars religion. For some of the key findings, read the full story inside. PAGE 7

LONDON 2012

Legacy of the Games lives on

AS A remarkable year for sport draws to a close, memories of the Olympic Games remains strong.

But what of the much-touted legacy which played such a big role in the bid to host the event? We ask whether the flame of the Games continues to burn bright. PAGE 10

SPORT

Book a tour of football stadia

STUCK for an idea when it comes to the non-league football fan in your life?

Well help may be at hand, after a book hit the shelves which takes a detailed look at the grounds which play host to the county's teams. We speak to the author who admits he's a bit of an 'anorak'. PAGE 54

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INSIDE

News.....2-25
Comment/Feedback 26-27
Kent Remembered 28

INSIDE

PLUS: Tandoori has no need to woo diners this Christmas - food and drink p34 Toyota's truly versatile offering - driving p43

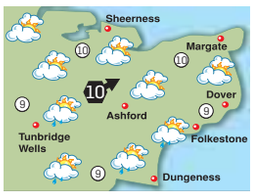
Interview 31
Food and Drink..... 32-34

LEISURE
Attractions, events, stage, exhibitions, theatre, arts, ... 35-37

Business 38-39
Training and careers....40

Property.....42
Driving 43-49
Jobs & Notices..... 50-53
Sport..... 54-55

Weather



TODAY: Bright with sunshine and showers. Fresh south-west winds. Max temp 8-11C (46-52F). **TONIGHT:** Clear spells and showers. Min temp 5-8C (41-46F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	00.31	6.9	12.55	6.8
Margate	01.22	4.9	13.57	4.9
St Mary's	06.29	6.0	18.54	5.6

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 11C	Min 5C
Tuesday	Max 8C	Min 5C
Wednesday	Max 10C	Min 6C
Thursday	Max 10C	Min 6C
Friday	Max 10C	Min 5C
Saturday	Max 10C	Min 4C

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

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CAMPAIGN

Lessons of Cliffe have been forgotten, claim campaigners in fight against current airport

NO Estuary Airport

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

IT was exactly nine years ago this weekend that campaigners were celebrating after convincing the then-Labour government that plans to build an airport in the Thames Estuary should be thrown out.

Fast-forward to the present day and many of the same faces are back on the picket line, living in fear that the internationally protected and much-loved area will be destroyed to make way for a huge, multi-billion pound airport.

While some argue the development could reinvigorate the entire county, creating thousands of jobs, the campaigners are, like so many others, concerned approval for such a scheme could blight the lives of thousands, destroy an important wildlife site, and turn much of north Kent into a concrete jungle of associated transport infrastructure and new homes.

So if a bid to build in the area was turned down in 2003, why will it be different this time?

The independent commission, led by economist Sir Howard Davies, is to consider all the options as it examines ways to increase the UK's aviation capacity.

Ultimately, its influence will be significant and he will be made only too aware of recent history.

Back in 2002, a new airport at Cliffe was one of several being considered by the Government.

On December 16, 2003, after a long-running, passionate campaign by people in north Kent, then-transport secretary Alistair Darling chose to leave the plan out of the Government's airport expansion proposals.

Reasons included the £11.5 billion cost, the risk of environmental damage and, notably, the danger of aircraft colliding with birds.

A report by the Central Science Laboratory warned at the time that 200,000 wildfowl and wading birds in the Thames Estuary – plus thousands in migration – should make the area off-limits for such a large scale development.

"It is difficult to envisage a more problematic site anywhere in the world," the document stated.

Joan Darwell, one of the lead campaigners from Friends of the North Kent Marshes, has been fighting airport plans for 10 years.

"The behaviour of birds hasn't changed in millions of years – so why are some people still determined to blight the lives of hundreds of thousands of people who live in north Kent, Medway and Essex with pipe dreams about an airport in this area rich in birdlife?" she said.

When turning down the Cliffe plan in 2003, Mr Darling said that without a "comprehensive and aggressive" bird management programme in place, an airport could not operate safely in that location.

He stated that even with mitigation measures in place, the hazard was still severe and "higher than any other major UK airport".

Mr Darling also stressed the costs, including the high, upfront constructions fees, posed a risk.

They say history is a lesson which should influence our futures. Those fighting plans for a Thames Estuary airport will be hoping the lessons learned nine years ago will be played out again here.

■ What are your views on the airport proposals? Share your opinion by writing to Airport Campaign, Archant KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS. Sign the petition at www.stopestuaryairport.co.uk or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk and put 'airport' in the subject line.

THE SAME OLD STORY: Anti-airport campaigners celebrate in 2003, after plans to build at Cliffe on the north Kent marshes were dropped, but those same people are once again having to battle against new proposals for a hub airport in the Thames Estuary

'At worst', bird-strike could cause plane to crash once every 102 years, says regeneration group

SKY HIGH: Bird-strike not seen as big risk

PRO-AIRPORT campaign group Demand Regeneration in North Kent (Drink) released a report last week stating that none of the top 31 objections to a hub airport would kill off the plans.

According to the group, there are six 'active' proposals to build an airport in the north Kent area: The Lord Foster plan for the Isle of Grain plan; Gensler's London Britannia airport off the Hoo Peninsula; London Jubilee airport off the coast of Whitstable; London Medway Airport at Cliffe; Marinair off the Isle of Sheppey; and London Gateway Airport at Cliffe.

Drink's report stated the risk of bird-strike "at worst" would be a crash once every 102 years at present levels of bird management technique.

"A few years down the line, there will be better ways to prevent such catastrophes," it said.

The report also said birds would find new, alternative refuges over time.

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TOURISM

Seaside town named as one of the world's top must-see destinations

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

TO SOME, it's just a shabby seaside town, still trying to live off the fame of its 1960s heyday.

Others, however, see it as Kent's up and coming art capital, with the Turner Contemporary and the Old Town taking centre stage.

But whatever your view, put that aside, for travel experts from the well-respected Rough Guide have spoken – and it's good news for Margate, with the coastal town being ranked among the world's best in the Travel Hotlist 2013.

Sitting proudly alongside the likes of Stockholm, Puerto Rico, northeast Iceland and Valparaíso in Chile, Margate has been selected as a must-see destination.

Rough Guides' web editor, Tim Chester, heaps praise on the town, which is in the throws of a renaissance, with the opening of the Turner Contemporary last year and plans for the world's first heritage theme park at the Dreamland site.

Mr Chester says: "From the Turner Contemporary to the proliferation of other indie art spaces, vintage shops and cute cafés in the Old Town, Margate now offers much more than golden sands and dilapidated seaside charm."

The town has received harsh criticism in the past – even from its own residents – and in recent years has been labelled as one of the "ghost towns" of the UK due to its high proportion of boarded-up shops. But things are on the up for the former popular seaside hotspot.

Chief executive of Visit Kent, Sandra Matthews-Marsh, said Margate is getting noticed as a growing world-class destination.

"It offers so much to so many and is at the forefront of the revival of our traditional seaside resorts," she said. "The opening of the Turner Contemporary, the delightful independent shops and galleries opening up in the Old Town alongside the growing number of fine-dining opportunities, all supported by the fast trains to and from London, have brought in new visitors."

She stressed that Margate is the "perfect destination" for the increasing interest in UK domestic tourism and the staycation, "offering the delights of a vintage seaside holiday and, at the same time, a world-class arts and culture destination with a growing metropolitan-style café culture in a remarkable, romantic setting".

She added: "This accolade is a great vote of confidence in the future of Margate."

■ **Would you rather visit Margate or Puerto Rico? Tell us at editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or write to The Editor, KOS, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SS.**

HOTLIST: Margate (above) has been ranked alongside, from left, Puerto Rico and Valparaíso

SAFETY

Predictive policing set to stop crime before it even happens

HOLLYWOOD movie Minority Report saw Tom Cruise as part of a futuristic police force capable of arresting people for crimes they are yet to commit – now Kent is following suit.

The county's Police and Crime Commissioner, Ann Barnes, has endorsed a new radical approach to be rolled out in north Kent called 'predictive policing'.

It uses sophisticated data analysis, historical crime data and analysis of human behaviour to actually predict where and when crime is likely to occur.

Police chiefs can then ensure officers and other resources are in the right place at the right time to either deter the crime or tackle offenders.

FUTURE: Based on the novel by Philip K Dick, Minority Report sees would-be criminals stopped

The idea originated in the US and although several UK police forces have implemented the concept, it is believed the Kent version is more advanced.

Mrs Barnes, who was elected into the new role last month, explained: "It fits in with my vision of looking for new ideas and concepts that can help cut crime. It's a great mix of 'old fashioned policing' with 21st century technology.

"If the trial meets expectations, it will be rolled out in other areas across the county. As well as driving down crime, it helps increase police visibility, which I know is a top priority for Kent residents."

Chief Constable Ian Learmonth, who has led the implementation of the scheme, added: "Predictive policing helps address the root causes of crime and anti-social behaviour rather than looking solely at the symptoms and will be used as a tactical option as part of the force's current policing model."

NEWS IN BRIEF

War and Peace moves

AFTER 30 years at Paddock Wood's Hop Farm, the annual War and Peace Show is shifting its home to Folkestone Racecourse.

Renamed War and Peace Revival, organisers say the move is designed to inject new life into the event after it became "a little staid". It takes place in July.

Shepway council said it was "delighted" by the festival's decision to relocate to the venue and hoped it would deliver a boost to the area.

Jury hears 'death' tape

A COURT this week heard harrowing phone calls recorded the day before a hairdresser was stabbed to death at her beauty salon in the middle of Ashford.

Ivan Esack, 38, stands accused of the murder of his estranged wife Natalie, 33, in April. He denies the claim on the grounds of diminished responsibility. On the phone call played at Maidstone Crown Court, he says her options are "death, death or death". The case continues.

Motorist crash charge

POLICE have charged a 23-year-old man from Teynham in connection with a car crash in Bapchild which saw 14-year-old Kyle Coen from Sittingbourne killed as he cycled along the A2 London Road in July.

Robert Lawrence, 23, of Barrow Green, Teynham, has been charged with failing to stop after an accident and perverting the course of justice. He appears in court next month.

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CRIME

Horror as children 'trafficked to work in cannabis factories, for slavery or sex exploitation'

SPECIAL REPORT
by Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

THE sickening human trafficking trade has been thrown into the spotlight as new findings reveal youngsters in Kent continue to be sold into the sex industry by global crime rings.

Social care chiefs at County Hall are working to stop these unaccompanied asylum seekers – some aged just 10 – from ending up in the hands of unscrupulous gangs, but admit to difficulties due to the trade being shrouded in secrecy.

Even the children involved are too scared to speak, for fear of reprisals by the traffickers against their families.

A new report by social care chiefs at Kent County Council found that between April and October this year some 16 asylum seeker children went missing out of the 102 arrivals. While eight returned and one went to live with his mother, seven disappeared off the radar, amounting to one a month. In 2011, 21 children went missing.

Campaigners tackling the problem said, however, that the figure is likely to be considerably higher.

They also warned that the contentious issue of immigration has made the public "immume to the horrors" unlike if it was seven Kent-born children disappearing.

Chairman of the Human Trafficking Foundation, Anthony Steen, said: "Every child should have equal rights. Britain is a sanctuary for children.

"The total absence of reliable figures also means we don't have an accurate picture and the numbers are higher."

He added: "The public has become immune to these horrors."

Cabinet member for specialist children's services, Jenny Whittle, who works closely with Kent Police and the UK Border Agency, said it was difficult to get a clear picture even though every unaccompanied young asylum seeker is assessed when they enter the county.

"It's very hard to ascertain whether children come into the country with the understanding of being trafficked and a view to meeting up with the traffickers," she explained.

"Traffickers will put a bounty on the child's parents' heads if they don't do as they say.

"It's hard to get evidence from the frightened children."

Assessments are carried out and experts provide support to try and stop the children going missing, but Cllr Whittle admitted that unless the youngsters – typically aged 15 and 16 – are detained, there is nothing to stop them from disappearing.

She said: "The main thing we do is build up trust."

A specialist foster carer placement for trafficked children has also been established in Kent.

"We have just as much responsibility to these children as we would if a Kent child went missing," she added.

The county has the highest number of unaccompanied minors than anywhere else in the UK, due to being one of the main access points into Europe.

Cllr Whittle said some older asylum seekers who have been in Kent a while go missing due to the threat of deportation when they are 18. But others end up in the hands of traffickers, wanting to make money through exploitation.

"I don't want to pass the buck, but these international crime rings need to be taken down," she said.

Cllr Whittle admitted there was a lack of public awareness surrounding the problem and appealed to people in Kent to help protect these children.

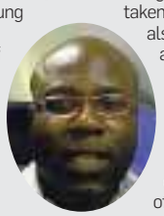
"If you go into a nail bar, for example, and see a child working there who can't speak any English then report it to social services," she said.

"This problem gets lost as it is tied up with immigration as a whole, but people need to imagine if it was their child."

TRAGEDY: Imagine if one of the victims was your child

CASE STUDY

IN October, people trafficker Osezua Osolase, of Beaumont Drive, Northfleet, was jailed for 20 years for using 'witchcraft' to force young girls into prostitution.



The 42-year-old was found guilty of human trafficking and rape offences. He promised the Nigerian girls modelling careers and a better life.

But the teenagers – some just 14 – were made to endure terrifying juju rituals to secure their silence and obedience before Osolase attempted to force them into a life of prostitution.

In one incident, a 16-year-old girl described the juju ceremony performed on her.

During the ritual, samples of her blood were taken, her head hair and pubic hair were also cut. She was then made to swear an oath of silence.

After this she was sent to the UK where she was held by Osolase.

Osolase was found guilty of one charge of rape, two charges of trafficking girls into the UK for sexual exploitation, and three similar charges of trafficking them out of the UK for the same reason. He was also found guilty of sexual activity with a child.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Racecourse farewell

FOLKESTONE Racecourse closes its doors for what could be the last time this week.

The track at Westenhanger is closing, with no current plans to re-open, after its final meeting of the year on Tuesday. It follows a failed attempt to get the nod to redevelop some of the site and rising costs.

For full details of why the course is having to close and prospects of it returning, turn to our sports pages.

Homeland star at zoo

STAR of hit TV show Homeland, Damian Lewis, made a special trip with his family to a local animal park during a break in filming.

The actor, who on Thursday was nominated for a Golden Globe, portrays Nicholas Brody in the hit Channel 4 show.

He stepped out of the limelight, however, to take his family to Port Lympne Wild Animal Park near Hythe. He said: "It was great getting so close to the animals."

Cost of regeneration

TUNBRIDGE Wells council has confirmed it paid £250,000 to disband a regeneration joint partnership last month.

The Tunbridge Wells Regeneration Company was formed between the council and developer John Laing to examine potential options for the council's properties. It confirmed this week that over the past four years it had cost the council £663,700 but generated £2m.

Jobs and public notices ...start on page 50

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ENERGY

Concerns for safety of water supplies as the likelihood of fracking increases

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

FEARS are growing that the controversial shale gas extraction technique fracking could be used in Kent after the Government lifted a temporary ban, potentially paving the way for a "dash for gas".

Campaigners warn the process could result in contaminated water supplies, flammable tap water, increased greenhouse gas emissions and earthquakes.

A report to the Government earlier this year confirmed shale gas extraction had triggered two earth tremors near Blackpool last year – but that fracking should continue as long as stringent measures are in place.

A ban was implemented, which ministers this week lifted, giving the green light for the gas extraction technique to resume in Lancashire.

The Treasury has also signalled its support of fracking, with Chancellor George Osborne proposing tax relief for the shale gas industry.

Two sites in Kent have already been highlighted as potential areas for exploratory drilling – one is at Woodnesborough near Sandwich, and the other is at Cowden near Tunbridge Wells.

CONTROVERSIAL: The fracking technique has already been banned in South Africa and Switzerland

A year ago this week, planning members at County Hall approved the plans to drill an exploratory borehole to test for shale gas on land by the A257 and A256, north of Woodnesborough.

Planning applicants Coastal Oil and Gas Ltd insisted it would be a simple test of coal and shale.

But activists warned it could be the first step towards the use of fracking, which involves blasting water and rock-dissolving fluids under ground at high pressure to break apart rocks and release gas.

This latest announcement has only gone to heighten their fears that the Government is warming to the idea of increased use of the contentious extraction technique.

Kent Green Party spokesman Steve Dawe said: "Since fracking contaminates water supplies, causes earth tremors, and has not proved to be an economic proposition anywhere in Europe up to the present date, it is very strange that the Government wishes to proceed with this technique for obtaining marginal amounts of shale gas. The coalition cannot claim to be the 'greenest government ever' if it is releasing more methane into the environment, or refusing to learn from countries – like South Africa and Switzerland – where this practice is already banned."

He said Kent Green Party was very concerned about proposed fracking near Woodesborough due to its close proximity to water sources.

Cuadrilla Resources – the company blamed for causing the two earthquakes in Lancashire – have outlined a site in west Kent as a potential area for shale gas drilling.

The firm told KoS earlier this year that while there were no immediate plans to use the controversial extraction method at the land in Cowden, it would not rule out the possibility of future use.

The company has a licence to explore for gas at a well on the site, which was drilled in the 1990s.

A Cuadrilla spokesman said permission for testing had been extended "many times" and the firm had been given permission to extract shale gas using fracking.

REACTIONS

IN response to ministers' decision to lift the ban, the county's branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, Protect Kent, said it was "extremely concerned" the Government was putting cheap energy before the environment.

A spokesman said: "There are a number of questions over issues such as ground water pollution that have yet to be answered and we are worried this 'dash for gas' could end up costing the environment dearly.

"CPRE Protect Kent believes it would be much better to invest in renewable energy sources than to keep pushing fossil fuels which will inevitably do damage to the environment."

Chief executive of Cuadrilla Resources, Francis Egan, said the Government's announcement was a "turning point for the country's energy future".

"Shale gas has the potential to create jobs, generate tax revenues, reduce our reliance on imported gas, and improve our balance of payments.

"This decision will allow continued exploration and testing of the UK's significant shale resources in a way that fulfils the highest environmental and community standards."

CENSUS

Is there a Jedi Knight living on your street?

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

MORE than a year-and-a-half after the census hit our doormats and the results are in – and it makes for an interesting read.

Not only do we have a small group of people practising witchcraft, but Kent and Medway boasts more than 6,700 Jedi Knights.

And while many choose to believe in a god, others prefer to put their faith in music, with more than 130 of the county's residents putting their religion as 'heavy metal'.

Giving a glimpse into the characteristics of Kent's population, the census – carried out every 10 years – has painted a picture of society in a way no other survey can.

On March 27, 2011, households across the country were asked to fill in the census to allow the Office of National Statistics (ONS) to look at the changing population, from religion and ethnicity to health and accommodation. It even went into the finer details of which households had access to a car.

The results revealed interesting statistics, from Canterbury having the highest number of part-time workers – probably on account of being a university town – and Thanet ranked as third in the list of places with the most people practicing witchcraft.

Kent and Medway also boasts 463 Wiccans, who practice Pagan witchcraft traditions.

Most surprisingly, however, is the large number – 6,738 – of Jedi Knights. This loyal following, named after the fictional Star Wars creed, is the most popular alternative faith in the county.

Looking at migration statistics, Maidstone, Swale and Ashford are in the highest 10 local authorities in England and Wales for people declared as white gypsy or Irish travellers, although numbers are relatively small.

With ethnicity overall, Kent continues to have a noticeably small black and Asian population, despite the fact parts of the county are on the doorstep of ethnically diverse London, where fewer than half the people living there are white British.

In Kent, just two per cent of the population is black or mixed race and in Medway, just a slightly higher three per cent.

The Asian population is also small in the county, with just three per cent in Kent, and Medway at six per cent. Gravesham is the only area with a noticeably higher population of Asian people, due to the influx of economic migrants in the 1950s and 1960s.

Experts suggest the low number of black and Asian people is due to lack of job opportunities in Kent for migrants moving to the UK to work, making them more likely to move to London.

The census shows our county's ageing population is doing well, with a healthy 13,158 aged 90 and over, and more than 23,500 aged 85-89.

The average age of the population is 41 and in Medway 37.

Guy Goodwin, ONS director of census, said the local level information would help plan for the future.

"This is just the tip of the iceberg of census statistics," he said.

"Further rich layers of vital information will be revealed as we publish more detailed data for very local levels over the coming months."

■ **Go to http://bit.ly/Uz3THP to see the full results.**

NEVER WATCHED STAR WARS?

The Jedi are at the heart of the fictional universe created in the popular Star Wars films.

They believe in The Force, a power which binds all living things and which can be harnessed for the power of good. Those who are trained in the way of The Force become a Jedi and through training a Jedi Knight.

Key characters such as Luke Skywalker, Yoda and Obi Wan Kenobi were among their number. They look to protect the universe from those who exploit the Dark Side and use The Force for agression and domination, as portrayed by characters such as Darth Vadar and The Emperor.

JEDI KNIGHT: Mark Hamill played the role of Luke Skywalker in the first three films

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OLYMPICS

The race is on to ensure legacy of the Games is kept on track

SPECIAL REPORT

By Marijke Cox and Greg Miles

greg.miles@archant.co.uk

IT CAPTURED the hearts and minds of the nation – but how exactly do we continue to harness the power of the Olympics and Paralympics for current and future generations?

Even before the incredible summer of sport had begun, the word legacy had almost been worn out. Now, in the dying embers of 2012, there is an expectation on the promise of hosting the Games to be delivered.

Kent County Council will unveil what it has dubbed its Olympic Legacy Plan for the county in the spring.

Early discussions have pinpointed a number of areas where the county can make a change, and build on existing successful schemes.

This includes supporting and promoting volunteering, which worked to great effect at the Games where 4,000 Kent residents worked as Games Makers; working with a new sport and physical activity framework in the county to enthuse youngsters to keep fit; create an education legacy to pass on the values of the Paralympics and Olympics to youngsters; and creating a culture network to bring together the arts communities from around the county. It will dovetail with a Goverment promise to spend £1bn in the next five years on a youth sports strategy, as well as change the school curriculum to have more emphasis on competitive sports.

Critics have not been slow in questioning the Government's commitment given its programme of selling playing fields.

But the latest plans to put the focus on competition have reignited the debate as to whether the approach alienates or encourages children to take part in sport. This formed a key part of the debate on the Olympic legacy at a discussion held by BBC Radio Kent at Tonbridge School recently.

Triple Olympic medallist Steve Backley, from Sidcup, feels competitive sport is the way forward. He said: "It's not about money, it's about the passion, belief and commitment. It's about engaging, it's about the parents getting involved. Get the competition back, and encourage participation."

Dartford's Paralympic judo bronze medallist Ben Quilter agreed, but felt there was also a need to cater for non-competitive physical activity.

"Physical activity doesn't have to be competitive, but you can balance that out," he said. "I would disagree with having non-competitive sports days where you don't have winners or losers, because ultimately you do."

Statistics show that school sport is still alienating girls, with four out of five not doing enough exercise, and 23 per cent of women admitting PE at school put them off sport, in recent surveys.

Chatham and Aylesford MP Tracey Crouch, who is on the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee, cited an example from Australia as to how the media can play its part in changing those figures.

"On the whole the media is not very interested in women's sports, there are few role models in sport, which is itself not encouraging women into sports," she said.

"We've got a fantastic example in Australia where they had a big ding dong with one of the male dominated sports around its broadcasting coverage," she said.

"They decided in the end not to go ahead with the male sport and instead to cover netball every Sunday morning, and participation in netball has absolutely rocketed as a result.

"I do think there has to be some emphasis on women's sports to get participation up."

Meanwhile, disabled people in the county are to get more opportunities to take part in sport after a charity-run training scheme was given a £850,000 boost as part of the Paralympic legacy.

InstructAbility, run by charities Aspire and YMCAfit, aims to give unemployed, disabled people in the county the chance to train as fitness instructors.

The scheme also looks to encourage more disabled people to take part in sport and fitness through a series of outreach activities.

OLYMPIAN: Jack Green is one of the county's many heroes who took to the London 2012 track

FLAME IS STILL ALIVE

"One of the key legacy ambitions from London 2012 was to get more people playing sport – something no other host city has managed to do.

That is why I'm so pleased the latest data from Sport England's Active People survey shows an increase on last year of 750,000 adults playing sport every week and an increase of almost 1.6 million people since we won the right to host the Games. This is good progress.

The figures have been the combination of strong partnerships, structured programmes and targeted investment.

Sport England has launched a £1 billion Youth and Community Sports Strategy at the start of the year, upgraded hundreds of local sports clubs through the Places People Play programme, recruited new coaches and sports leaders, and UK Sport has mounted successful bids for major sporting events – all of this to ensure the legacy of the Games will be long lasting and effective.

However, the sports that show the greatest increases in participation are those that have understood that the way people choose to play sport has changed.

Innovative connected partnerships, targeted programmes, small sided versions of the games and a more consumer focused approach are all key ingredients for successful sport.

We will always look back with pride at the London Olympic and Paralympic Games and remember a summer defined by remarkable sport. But we have always wanted London 2012 to be more than just a summer of sport and create the first Legacy Games and we remain committed to delivering on our pledge to inspire a generation of young people to choose sport."

HUGH ROBERTSON, SPORTS MINISTER AND FAVERSHAM AND MID KENT MP

THE LASTING EFFECT ON OUR FINANCES

THE Olympic and Paralympic Games have not only led to more people getting involved in sport, but are set to leave a lasting legacy on the county's bank balance.

According to County Hall chiefs, the Games' legacy figure could reach as much as £324 million over the next four years.

And part of this is down to you, giving visitors a warm welcome and in doing so, making sure they return.

A survey, conducted by Qa Research on behalf of tourism body Visit Kent, revealed the average Games visitor spent £70 per day during their trip, compared to non-Games visitors' £60.

Sandra Matthews-Marsh, chief executive at Visit Kent, said 2012 had been a golden opportunity to showcase the county, adding: "We are now looking forward to 2013 and beyond when we will welcome back our traditional visitors alongside new ones – those inspired by our campaigns and this year's Games returning with their friends and relatives keen to spend more time exploring."

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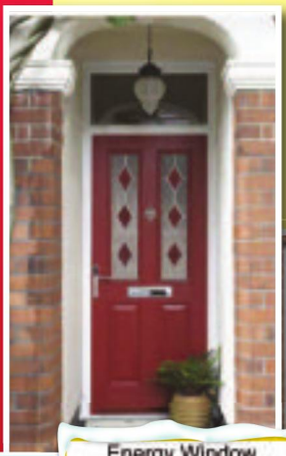

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EXHIBITION

From Dickens and Austen, to piracy and revolt, centre reveals our past

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE county's turbulent past – including revolt, wars, imprisonment and piracy – is available for viewing at the newly opened Kent Historical and Library Centre in Maidstone.

Items from museum collections and The National Archives are all on display for the next three months, after a formal opening by the Duke of Kent on Tuesday.

As well as writings from Charles Dickens and Jane Austen they include some other, lesser known, relics.

"Kent has a reputation as the county of rebellion, so it is only fitting that we have a document detailing the witness statements by those who saw, at first hand, the Peasants' Revolt," said Kent County Council historian Stuart Bligh.

"Then we have a document dating from 699AD which is in Latin. It has the word Cantie included – the first reference to the name Kent to be found anywhere."

Accompanied by an ornate period pistol is an account from 1572 of the seizure of a pirate vessel, The Lucy, in the Swale, off Faversham.

Three men on board were arrested by Captain Gylberte Horssley who made an examination of the ship's cargo. His report is on show and details a "sworde and dagger" and an "emptye cheste".

Mr Bligh said: "It seems they weren't very good pirates – their treasure chest was empty."

Another unusual item is a series of accounts kept by Henry IV's consort, Queen Joan of Navarre. After the monarch's death she fell into disfavour as his son, Henry V, accused her of witchcraft and attempting to poison him.

Firstly she was held captive in Pevensey Castle, Sussex, before Leeds Castle was her prison for 103 days prior to her release in 1422.

The accounts tell of her visitors and her financial dealing – as well as hint at a romantic relationship with her minstrel, named as Nicholas, and a frequent visitor.

Mr Bligh said: "She was nominally a prisoner but seemed to be constantly holding feasts and entertaining. Sums of £30 are detailed – a vast amount for the time."

The display contains the only known example of the signature of playwright Philip Marlowe, as well as letters from Dickens and Austen, along with a copy of the Magna Carta, made about 85 years after the original, and a charter from Thomas Becket, as well as detailed maps.

HISTORY: From left: The pirate ledger and pistol; a picture of the author Jane Austen; The Duke of Kent, left, and archivist Stuart Bligh explore the exhibition

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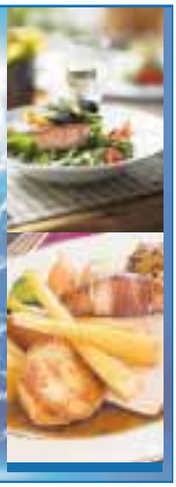

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ENTERTAINMENT

Hope Bilbo's film debut sends young on quest to read Tolkien classic

By Chrissie Daniels
chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

A SCHOLAR is hoping the expected blockbuster success of The Hobbit will inspire a new generation to pick up the books of JRR Tolkien.

The first in a triology of movies based on the author's literary classic hits the big screens this weekend, and is widely tipped to be the festive season's highest grossing film.

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey, is directed by Peter Jackson who was behind the hugely successful Lord of the Rings movies, which went on to become three of the biggest films of all time.

Now Janet Montefiore, a professor of 20th century literature at the University of Kent, is hoping youngsters will see the film and then head to the bookstore.

She said: "If people see the film they will go and read the book. I am sure Tolkien's books will stay alive, there will always be people who want to read them. I don't think there is any question of The Hobbit being forgotten.

"The film will bring the book to all those who have not seen it and makes it more accessible to a mass audience.

"It's a classic – a lot of people still buy The Secret Garden. The film can fade, but the book goes on."

Ms Montefiore, who has written essays on the author, said she is looking forward to seeing how the 1937 book has translated onto the big screen.

She said: "I will be interested to know how much of the original dialogue they have used.

"The really best parts of The Hobbit are in the second half of the book, so I will certainly be interested to see what they do with that.

"The second half is, in a sense, more grown up. A number of the characters that we have gone on a long journey with get killed in battle.

"It shows what it costs to receive a treasure."

Sir Ian McKellen reprises his role as Gandalf, while Andy Serkis (Gollum) and Elijah Wood (Frodo) also return.

British actor and former star of BBC's The Office, Martin Freeman, plays Bilbo Baggins.

Orlando Bloom, who grew up in Canterbury, will appear as Legolas in the second and third installment of the Hobbit movies.

BANK ON JRR SUCCESS

Worldwide box office takings from his films

Lord of the Rings: **Fellowship of the Ring**
£542 million

Lord of the Rings: **Two Towers**
£574 million

Lord of the Rings: **Return of the King**
£693 million

ACTING UP: Martin Freeman plays Bilbo Baggins

TRANSPORT

Protest over season ticket price hikes

SOUTHEASTERN has hit back over figures recently published by independent rail user watchdog Passenger Focus, saying they were not accurate - and said some season ticket price hikes will not be as great as recently feared.

It said some figures used by the group were up to one per cent out. Across the network, however, the average rise will be 4.2 per cent.

Commuters made a protest at the price rises outside a number of Kent stations this week, including Canterbury East. Organised by trade union the TUC, it saw Christmas cards handed out to travellers to highlight the rises.

FUNDING

KCC take steps over care cash 'time bomb'

KENT County Council says it is acting now to tackle soaring adult social care costs which experts warn could overwhelm local authorities by 2020.

The Local Government Association has warned that councils are facing a funding time bomb as the huge cost of supporting the elderly and those with learning and physical disabilities would leave little money left in the coffers to pay for other services.

Now KCC says it is to examine its services with a view to keeping people in their homes for longer.

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ROADS

Loophole on diesel use clears the road ahead for farmers to play key role when snow falls

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A RELAXATION in the rules over the use of red diesel on public road means Kent's army of farmers will be called up to use their agricultural vehicles to help the rest of us when the snows come.

Red diesel – which is regular diesel injected with an instantly recognisable dye to allow authorities to spot misuse – is only permitted for use in certain off-road commercial vehicles such as tractors and cranes.

Different tax rules are applied which makes it considerably cheaper, and it is designed to allow industry, such as farming, to turn a profit while keeping food prices down.

But due to its cheaper price, it is strictly forbidden for such a fuel to be used in vehicles which use public roads.

The bizarre legal tangle has previously meant farmers were unable to help anyone trapped in snow, despite having plenty of vehicles perfectly capable of the job.

This year, however, HM Revenue & Customs has created a legal loophole so if there is sufficient snow, red diesel vehicles can be used on the road for certain critical duties.

Previously, red diesel could be used by some vehicles during snowy weather – but only those designed for purpose, such as gritting lorries.

Now more than 150 of the county's farmers have signed up to assist and have been armed with various snow-ploughs which bolt to their tractors.

They have been assigned with the task of clearing rural areas close to their farms in a bid to prevent the county's transport from network grinding to a halt.

KCC welcomed the decision and promised to mobilise its force of farmers should the weather turn nasty in the next few months.

Winter service crews from KCC have already been out in force in rural communities, delivering more than 200 one-tonne bags of salt-sand mix. This is on top of more than 2,000 salt bins being filled.

David Brazier, Kent County Council deputy cabinet member for environment, highways and waste, said: "In addition to expanding the number of salt bins in Kent, we have again encouraged parishes to take up our offer to have one tonne salt bags.

"We are prepared for wintery weather – and this allows parishes to co-ordinate where and who will treat their patch, so people can work together to improve conditions in their area.

"In the event of significant snowfall, rural communities will also be served by our army of farmers who go out in any weather when they get the call, clearing stretches of important routes to help communities. They play an important role and the work they do is widely recognised."

PLOUGHING AHEAD WITH THE RESCUE EFFORT EACH WINTER

ANDREW Brealy is one of the farmers who regularly patrols local roads when the snow falls to help stranded motorists.

He runs two farms covering 1,200 acres in the Herne Bay area. He has one snow plough at each farm which he's used for more than 40 years. He said they try to cover as many miles as possible, but with so many abandoned cars and rescues needed, they can't always do as much as they'd like.

Mr Brealy explained: "We have an advantage doing it at night as there is less traffic on the road. People today don't have snow tyres and we find plenty of people at the side of the road in distress. We need to pull cars out and move stranded vehicles out of the way.

"We don't think in terms of miles that we clear because there are so many variables. We just do as much as we can. People expect the roads to be cleared instantly, but it can't be done."

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ASTRONOMY

A legend is remembered as The Sky at Night says goodbye to its brightest star

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

HE INSPIRED a generation to look to the skies and this week, those for whom the heavens became a fascinating classroom, paid tribute to the ultimate teacher – Sir Patrick Moore.

The presenter of the BBC's The Sky at Night passed away last weekend at his home in West Sussex. He was 89.

Dr Becky Parker is director of the Langton Star Centre, at Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys in Canterbury and a respected figure in enhancing the knowledge of the universe. She met him earlier this year.

She explained: "He was an inspiration to millions. His passion and delight in bringing the universe to so many people was truly remarkable.

"I was honoured to speak to him when I received the Royal Astronomical Society's Patrick Moore Medal."

The school will host the local leg of the BBC's Stargazing Live event next month. Dr Parker said Sir Patrick's memory would be "honoured and celebrated" as part of the night.

Paul Andrew is the president of the South East Kent Astronomical Society, from his Dover home, he said: "He inspired me when I was 11 and I read one of his books. Later, I helped him write one on building amateur observatories. I build them, and was delighted to help. He always called himself an amateur, yet he helped NASA with the Moon landings."

Picture: ROBIN HAMMOND

Picture: BILL GALLOWAY

SAD LOSS: Sir Patrick Moore was a true legend, above is the telescope he used to map the moon in the 1960s

Noel Clark of the Mid-Kent Astrological Society said: "Sir Patrick supported our fledgling society by becoming it's honorary president and spoke on at least one occasion. We found an appointment postcard he sent us in the early days, written on his Remington manual typewriter and signed.

"Several of our members went to his house in Selsey in 2010 to visit him and look at his telescopes; a pilgrimage to the shrine of amateur astronomy.

"Sir Patrick was as affable and hospitable as ever.

"His presence will be greatly missed, and his passing is a tremendous sadness to astronomers worldwide. His legacy will live on in astronomy societies up and down the country."

PROFILE

THE first edition of the BBC's The Sky at Night broadcast on April 24, 1957. It became a national institution; buoyed by the space race of the 1960s and subsequent exploration into deep space.

Sir Patrick Moore would create a piece of history by becoming the longest running presenter of a TV show. His last appearance was just a week before his death.

From 2004 he appeared from the front room of his house, after arthritis prevented him from reaching the BBC studios.

He never married after fiancé Lorna was killed by a bomb during World War Two.

He was made a knight in 2001; won a Bafta for services to television and was an honorary fellow of the Royal Society.

Politically, he supported the UK Independence Party.

His death was announced in a statement issued by friends: "After a short spell in hospital, it was determined that no further treatment would benefit him, and it was his wish to spend his last days in his own home, Farthings, where he passed on, in the company of close friends and carers and his cat Ptolemy."

His funeral will be private, but in March, his 90th birthday will be marked with a farewell event.

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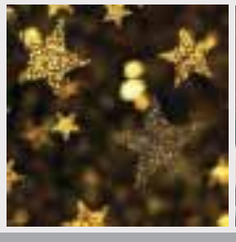

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CRIME

Documents add a fresh twist to Lucan saga

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

FRESH evidence regarding the notorious Lord Lucan murder case has raised new questions over the mystery which has gripped the nation for decades.

In what is the latest twist in the gruesome tale, old notebooks, diaries, tapes and address books belonging to the late Kent detective DCI David "Buster" Gerring – who was in charge of the hunt for the infamous peer – have been uncovered by the BBC's Inside Out team.

DCI Gerring had stockpiled many personal notes and papers in boxes at his home in Tunbridge Wells – evidence which could help piece together the missing links in the case of the disappearing peer, who disappeared after the murder of his children's nanny Sandra Rivett at the family home in Belgravia in November 1974.

Lucan was found guilty of her murder in his absence. It is believed he told friends he discovered a man at his wife's house and intervened, but feared his estranged wife would implicate him, so fled.

His car was later found abandoned in Newhaven and it was thought the peer had died after throwing himself off a ship in the English Channel.

But this year, a woman named Shirley Robey, who worked for Lucan's friend, Kent wildlife park owner John Aspinall, claimed she was instructed by her boss to organise two trips for the peer's children to be flown to Africa in the 1980s for Lucan to see them from afar, suggesting he had fled abroad and not died.

Speaking to this newspaper in August, she admitted she was stunned when both Lucan's wife and son, George Bingham, strenuously denied the claims of the visit to the Gabon – where Mr Aspinall started a gorilla rescue and rehabilitation centre – when George was 13.

"His apparent response in denying that he went to Africa at that time took me by complete surprise," she said.

"I cannot speculate why, but assume he must have his own reasons for responding thus.

"I know arrangements were made and am as sure as I could possibly be that he and his sister went and that Lord Lucan observed them from a distance."

This week's BBC report has strengthened this claim due to the discovery of a copy of a confidential Met Police report from 2002, which gives the suspected pseudonym that Lucan may have been living under during the 1980s and 90s in Africa.

The new evidence also reveals a police statement in which Lord Lucan's young daughter Camilla Bingham, aged four at the time, was recorded as having claimed there was a mystery man living in the Belgravia home where the nanny was murdered.

In the statement, made by the girl's aunt Lady Sarah Gibbs, she said: "Sometimes he sleeps in Nanny's room, and Nanny sleeps with us, and sometimes he sleeps in Mummy's, she's got a gigantic bed."

Lady Gibbs said she thought he was the nanny's boyfriend because of the way the elder sister, Frances, referred to him, although the BBC said they had so far been unable to get a response to this evidence.

The documentary also included an interview with Lucan's brother Hugh Bingham, who said he did not believe the peer killed himself. It was the first television interview he has ever given on the mystery.

"Let us hope that now, with the way in which the evidence seems to be gathering, there is a chance that maybe the inquest result could be set aside," he said.

"If that happened then the warrant of arrest would fall away and my brother's situation would be restored to the normal situation of a man innocent until proven guilty." Also interviewed was Neil Berriman, the son of Sandra Rivett.

He said: "As far as I'm concerned, he murdered my mother, and if he never murdered my mother and if there is another murderer, I need to get to the bottom of it.

THEORIES BEHIND THE LEGEND

- After fleeing London, he took refuge with friend and wildlife park owner John Aspinall at Port Lympne. He stayed there until his death, at which point his body was fed to the lions.
- He remained in the UK for two days following the murder while his friends – including Mr Aspinall and James Goldsmith – arranged to have him flown out of the country via Headcorn. He was flown to the south of France and then on to Africa. He returned for a secret visit to the UK in 1985.
- Detectives are understood to have received reports Lord Lucan was still alive in 2002 and living a secret life in Mozambique, using the name John Crawford.

INFAMOUS: Lord Lucan, aka Lucky

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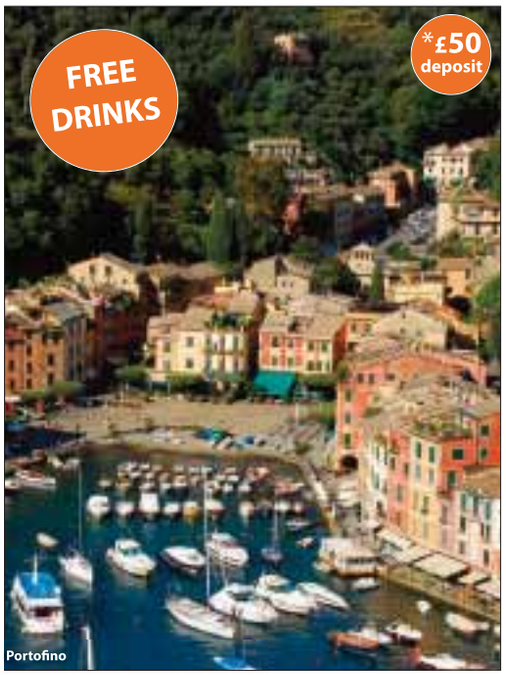

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A Lemon Festival display.5

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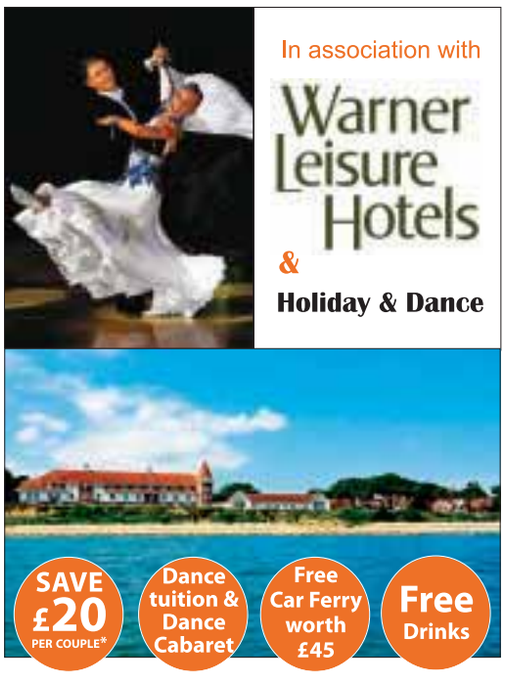
Friday 11 January, 2013

Fans of Strictly Come Dancing and dance enthusiasts are in for a treat at our exclusive break on the Isle of Wight.

We are taking over Warner's Bembridge Coast hotel with a tailor made weekend featuring dance tuition, dance cabaret, social dancing, a Gala Ball and much more. With a huge 8,860 sq ft dance floor and reserved tables and seating exclusively for a maximum of 200 dance guests, comfort and space are guaranteed. Tuition – up to 8 hours - is courtesy of Philip Wylie of Ballroom & Latin Dance specialists Holiday & Dance. Cabaret comes from six times British National Amateur & Reigning Professional Champions Warren & Kristi Boyce, plus British National Juvenile Champions Glenn Richard Boyce & Kayleigh Andrews.



Add to this a packed entertainment programme in the show lounge, great food in the refurbished restaurant, Free drinks from 6 to 11pm every night, and Free car ferry worth £45 per car and you're assured of a strictly perfect weekend.

INCLUDED:

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- 3 nights en-suite hotel accommodation – upgrades available
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- Car ferry crossing worth £45

OPINION

Going against the stereotype

Mike Barrett, chief executive of homelessness charity Porchlight, tells us to think before jumping to conclusions over society's less fortunate

POVERTY exists for those both in and out of work.

When we as a society discuss poverty there's a tendency to think of destitution, hunger and homelessness. Poverty does regularly lead to homelessness, but it also hides a myriad of other social evils.

Poor educational attainment, poor physical and mental health can lead those affected into destructive lifestyles that mean they are further distanced from mainstream society.

Research released this year by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation found that some 60 per cent of people claiming means-tested benefits are in work and struggling to keep their families afloat.

This situation is worsening as employment opportunities reduce and the Government's welfare reforms take hold.

In fact, there are 1.4 million part-time workers in the UK wanting full-time work – the highest figure in 20 years.

The number of people living in low income, working households, in 2009/10 grew to four million adults and 2.1 million children. This figure keeps rising, so reducing benefits to those most in need will only escalate this rate of increase.

The research goes on to say: "The risk of poverty for a working-age adult reliant on means-tested benefit is far higher than a pensioner similarly reliant on state pension and means-tested pension credit."

I am in no way suggesting pensioners are better off. Far from it. I'm of the view we treat our elders with as much contempt as we do the poor and destitute in our celebrity and greed-driven society.

It should be noted, however, that as the state retirement age rises so does the chances of poverty to older people dependent on state pension.

Of course, arguing that injustice leads to poverty is not a fashionable viewpoint to hold.

This year's British Social Attitudes Survey revealed almost two thirds of people now believe benefits are so generous they discourage job seeking.

Three times the rate of those thinking they cause hardship.

The majority of people hold the belief that citizens in need are in this position due to unreliability, laziness, self-induced addiction and stupidity.

This is about as far from the truth as you can get.

Of course there are minorities of people who, for various reasons, will never be able to integrate and play a full part in society, but for the great majority of the poor, aspiration and dignity are what keeps them from crumbling under the incessant pressure of fiscal hardship and constant abuse from some politicians and sections of the media.

What we need is a revival of compassion, tolerance and understanding for those less fortunate, especially at this time of year when the choices that divide us are stark.

Truth is people who claim benefits would rather earn a living wage

For some, the big decision is what to buy our loved ones for Christmas. For others, it's a choice between a present for a child, food on the table or turning the heating on.

Perhaps we can find a truer meaning to Christmas and find it in our hearts to help, not just when the news reinforces stereotypes by exposing a benefit cheat. The truth is people who claim benefits would much rather earn a living wage to provide for themselves and their families, fulfil their aspirations and not be embarrassed simply to exist.

• For more information about Porchlight's work visit www.porchlight.org.uk. If you are in need of help or know someone who is you can call the charity's helpline on 0800 567 76 99.

KOS COMMENT

Don't ignore the trauma of these young victims

SEVEN children going missing from Kent in just six months is a shocking statistic.

It shouldn't matter whether they are white, black, Asian, Vietnamese or Afghan. They have gone missing from our streets, sold into the sex trade or domestic slavery with nothing but a life of misery ahead of them. Let's hope authorities can find a way of helping.

With the contentious issue of immigration frequently debated, society has become somewhat hardened to the topic and, sadly, the tragedies and victims that come with it.

If seven Kent children went missing, it would be hitting national headlines.

All children matter; imagine if it was your own.

Margate the place to be

WHILE we all appreciate the hard work going into rejuvenating Margate, most will agree it's hardly one of the top 10 destinations in the world.

But if a travel expert wants to call it that, then so be it; we can sit back and reap the rewards from the disgruntled tourists.

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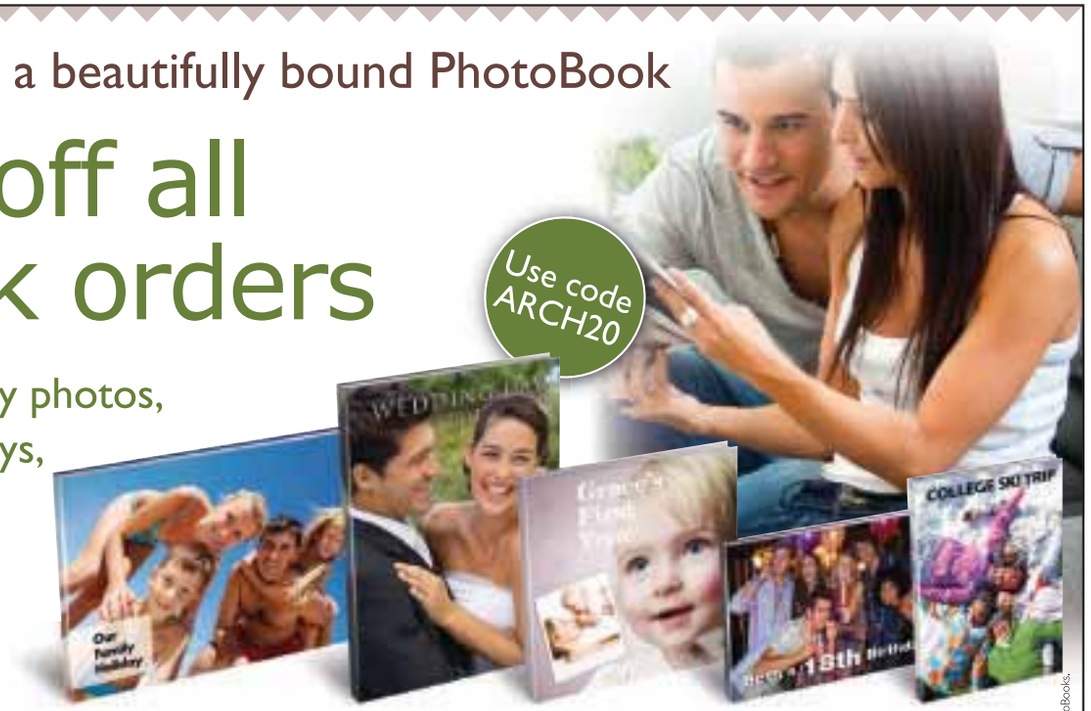

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Bofors gun at Dover Castle by Kevin Mudge-Wood from Dover

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Jobs boost a flying fancy

WHAT nonsense from Mark Bradbury (Letters, December 2).

Building an estuary airport would not solve the region's unemployment by miraculously relocating thousands of jobs from the City and Canary Wharf to north Kent, nor would it attract workers in this direction using cheaper, less congested transport.

As for 'some new housing' being needed, in reality this is just a euphemism for having to build a couple of new towns.

I think this corner of the country is overcrowded enough already, and is covered in more than its fair share of concrete.

Either expanding London's airports which would only necessitate upgrading existing infrastructure, or building a new one more conveniently located for the majority of the population west or north of Heathrow is surely the way forward.

Bill Stevens, Faversham

If only it was just that easy

THERE is far more to consider than the taste when game birds are on the menu (KoS, story December 9).

Your reporter's encouragement to 'get involved' omits to mention that, as there is no mandatory training required for using firearms in the UK, licences are often granted to inexperienced and young people, meaning birds are often not killed outright, but instead are wounded by novice shooters.

In addition, far from ending up on the dinner table, vast numbers of dead birds are dumped as waste product, often buried in mass graves.

It is estimated more than 20 million birds released each year do not even reach the sight of the gun, but instead die from exposure, cannibalism, predation, traffic collision or starvation.

Gamekeepers snare, trap, poison and bludgeon tens of thousands of animals each week, including domestic pets, in an effort to protect game birds from natural predators.

Animal welfare is also a major issue. Hens on many farms are kept in the same type of small battery cage that has been made illegal for farmed chickens.

Chicks are often kept in sheds, packed in their thousands, where the stress caused means that to stop behaviours such as feather pecking and cannibalism, they are fitted with masks or bits – devices which mutilate them and prevent their beaks from closing properly

I was also sorry to see a dead woodcock in your photo; these largely nocturnal birds are suffering a worrying drop in numbers. Concern is so great the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust are carrying out a 'woodcock watch'.

Wild, natural and free-range meat surely is a menu treat, but game birds are shot for sport as part of a £1 billion industry, not for food.

Janet Bott, Lynsted.

This is not fair game at all

IF ONE eats pheasant, one is most unlikely to be eating meat from wild, natural and free-range birds.

The birds are mass produced like commercial poultry so they can be shot.

Animal Aid filmed undercover and found the caged birds suffer a high incidence of emaciation, feather-loss and back and head wounds.

If you want to avoid eating intensively farmed or cruelly slaughtered meat, the only way to be sure is not to eat meat at all.

Richard Mountford, Animal Aid

Archbishop needs his faith

ROBIN Gill failed to mention that under the watch of the Church of England, congregations have been disappearing like snow in the sun, Christianity has become marginalised and Christians are actually being persecuted for their faith. (KoS Opinion, December 12).

The response of the CofE, like the Scribes and Pharisees, has been to obsess over trivia. They think they can run the CofE like a business, telling God what they will and won't do, so as to appear modern and trendy.

Unless the new archbishop gets a grip on this dying religion, it will slide further into mediocrity and even more become a club representing the wishes of its members.

They should be reminded that 'Christian' means being a follower of Christ. Not a misrepresenter, contradictor, or counterfeiter.

Phil Granger, West Malling

Building for a bleaker future

THE latest planning minister has no qualms about concreting over the south east and indeed the rest of the country for more housing.

In an illiterate outburst he suggests houses are more beautiful than nature and having a garden is a moral right.

His extraordinary view is that ordinary people that wish to protect our natural heritage are selfish, and have nothing better to do than object to his outrageous proposals.

What kind of semi-detached world does he live in?

No one doubts the urgent need for new housing, but the problem is not with the shortage of land or planning permission.

There is plenty of brownfield land and developers are sitting on tens of thousands of undeveloped plots. The problem is the continuing economic crisis and the reluctance of banks to lend money.

The minister should ditch his think-tank mode and get out into the best garden of them all – our irreplaceable countryside.

If he experiences the true beauty of the natural world and our place in it, perhaps he will think twice about the irreparable damage not only to the countryside, but to the nation's very soul that his proposals would cause.

Terry Cload, Pembury

Still living in Dream-land?

I RECENTLY took some visitors on a nostalgic trip to Margate.

They had moved away from Kent many years ago.

They were delighted to see the brown tourism sign showing the way to Dreamland and, of course, were disappointed to find the site derelict.

However, the delightful new white Turner Contemporary gallery came as a big surprise – no brown signs or directions to this attraction.

Is Margate clinging to the hope Dreamland will recover, and that tourists will not want to visit the modern art gallery?

Wake up, and invest a bit in a few new signposts!

Sheila Palmer, Folkestone

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KENT **REMEMBERED**

REST IN PIECES: Addington Long Barrow is one of two Neolithic chamber tombs found in the village

No place like home for uncovering village life

By Chrissie Daniels
chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

IT WOULD be easy to overlook Addington; a pretty village which nestles between Wrotham Heath and West Malling.

But it boasts a long, remarkable and rich history – dating back to the first recorded settlers arriving in 5,000 BC.

And now the story of Addington has been told in by local resident Patricia Richardson.

Ms Richardson's book Addington: The Life Story of a Kentish Village takes the reader on a journey from the village's early beginnings up to the present day. And it was her own home's connections with Admiral Horatio Nelson that inspired her to write the book.

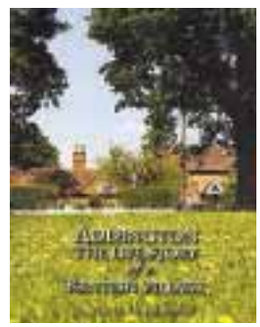
Ms Richardson lives in the former home of Royal Navy Captain William Locker.

Locker was Nelson's 'sea daddy', assigned to look after the historic figure and who struck up an immediate friendship.

When Locker died in 1800, Nelson came to Addington for his funeral.

Ms Richardson said her interest in her home's past soon spread to the village's history.

She said: "That's what happens when you start researching a village, you go down so many paths."



Referred to in the Domesday Book as Eddintune, Addington is best known for its two Neolithic chamber tombs. One is called the Addington Long Barrow and has been left badly damaged. The other, The Chestnuts, is about 100 metres away and has been better preserved.

During the 1957 excavation of The Chestnuts, nine cremated bodies were found at the forecourt of the tomb. It is thought they were thrown out so others could be brought in.

Although there is evidence to suggest the village was born as early as 5,000BC, in the book Ms Richardson explains how there is no direct evidence to say when the settlement of Addington began.

The village was given its name, Eddintune, from a family chief, Edda or Eadda.

'Inga' means people and 'tun' means settlement enclosed by a fence or hedge.

The book explores the history of the Watton dynasty, who owned Addington Manor and controlled the village from the 14th to 19th century.

The first Wattons to make a home in the village were Robert and Alice.

The family gradually acquired neighbouring properties throughout the years.

Ms Richardson tells how the family endured everything from religious upheavals, rebellions and harsh agricultural conditions.

The last of the Wattons, Edward John Wingfield-Stratford, died in Bedfordshire in 1903, at the age of 53. He was buried in Addington.

By the time the estate was broken up in the early 1920s it covered 2,400 acres of land, homes, shops and a number of local villages including the centre of West Malling.

The final chapters of the book explore how Addington has developed up until 2012.

Among the pieces of history includes the story of how, in 1953, a television was set up in the village hall for the community to watch the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

The author relives the creation of the parish council, cricket club and recreation ground and even how the village celebrated this year's Diamond Jubilee.

Ms Richardson explains in the foreword to the book: "This life story is about generations of Addington's families as they raised their children and crops, built and enhanced their church and administrated their parish. It tells how the soil determined how the land was worked.

"I have brought the village story up to date by recording how the community created, social, political, religious and recreational organisations. And of course the life story continues."

■ **To purchase the book call Ms Richardson on 01732 842303 or visit the website www.kentlibraryshop.co.uk. The book costs £14, plus £3 post and packaging.**

High-speed thrills when you try out go-karting

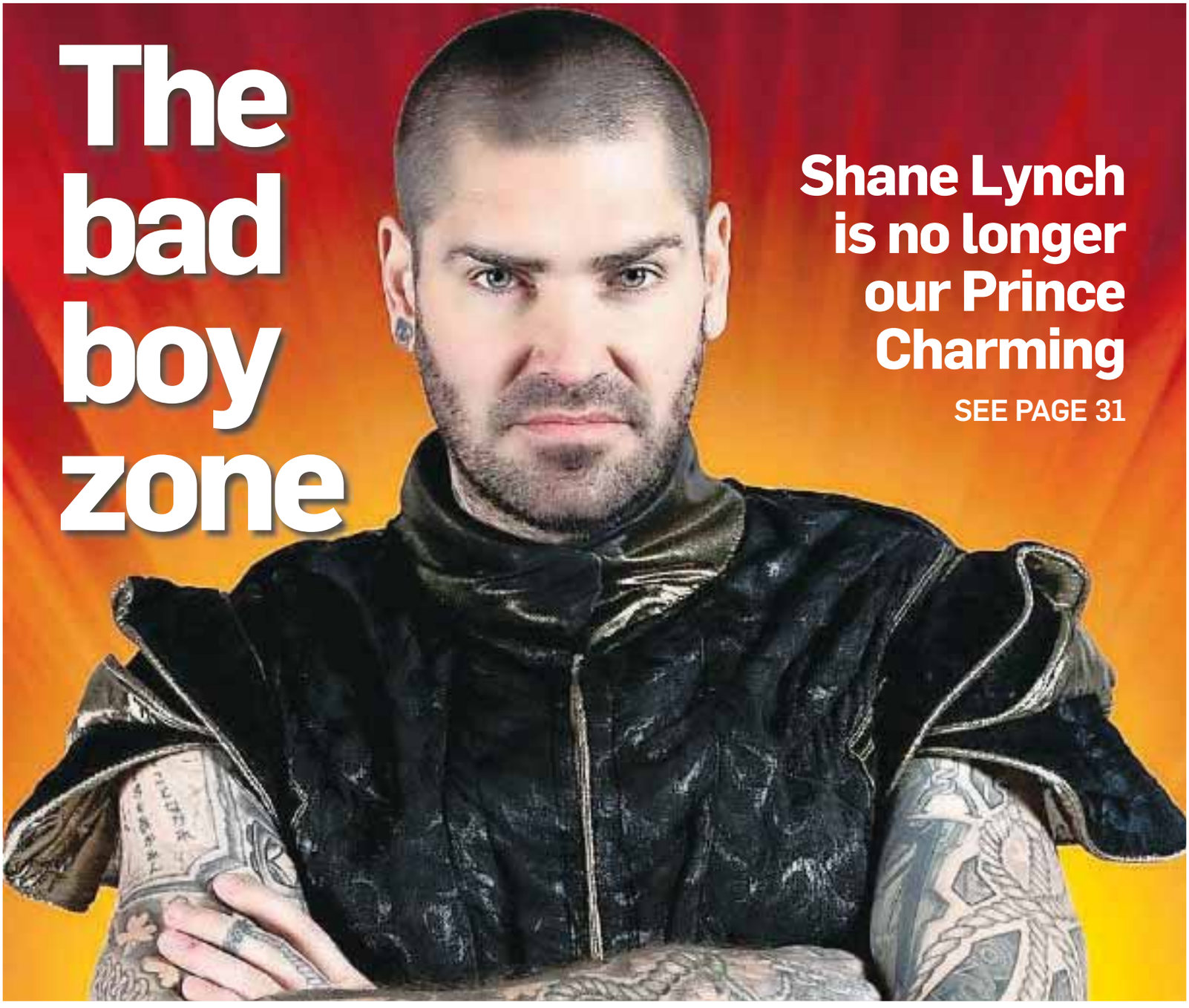
SEE PAGE 35

RAT PACK IS BACK

Frank, Sammy and Dean are swinging by to charm us all

SEE PAGE 36

Kent Weekend



The bad boy zone

Shane Lynch is no longer our Prince Charming

SEE PAGE 31

PLUS: Tandoori has no need to woo diners this Christmas - **food and drink p34** Toyota's truly versatile offering - **driving p43**

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(T&C's below)

FEMALE early 60's lots to offer someone special likes dancing music divorced looking for someone could it be you? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400213**

SINGLE mum, new to Canterbury, 37, attractive, blonde, seeking soul mate, preferably with car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397751**

52YR old female, single mum of 2, seeking honest, caring, decent man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389891**

SUSIE young 55, slim, 5ft 3ins, seeks tall, honest guy from Medway towns. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389027**

BLACK African lady, late 30's, no ties, likes country walks, gardening, cinema, seaside, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393272**

DEBBIE 50, seeking man, 60 plus with GSOH for fun nights out and cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398173**

MARGARET 57, looking for male companionship with GSOH for nights out, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390248**

MARY 62, fun loving, enjoy most things, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, green eyes, size 14, lives alone in country, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385189**

5FT female, brown hair, 39, single mum, seeks caring, dedicated guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397915**

JOYCE 82, widow, seeking man who is fun loving and good humoured for meals out, 60-70's. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393067**

FOLKESTONE lady, 58, 5ft 1ins, animal lover, cuddly, affectionate, GSOH, seeks male, 58-63 to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395551**

NICKY 45, 5ft 2ins, blue eyes, blonde hair, looking for genuine male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389774**

COUNTRY loving outgoing female, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, genuine, caring, intelligent, seeks honourable, smart, professional male, 68-75 to share laughter and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392899**

MARY 61, lot to give, likes country/western, animals, gardening, dancing, seeking someone special. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399269**

RETIRED teacher, blonde, 5ft 4ins, medium build, youthful, easy-going, likes most things, seeks tall, refined gent for meaningful relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397363**

FEMALE seeks Prince Charming, 20-30 to sweep her off her feet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392891**

MIRANDA early 60's, sociable, friendly, seeking similar N/S solvent, presentable, easygoing male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394843**

MICHELLE petite fun female, outgoing, enjoys holiday abroad, OHAC and pretty self-sufficient, looking for someone to share a LTR with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399515**

SENSUAL female looking to enjoy life a little more, seeking likeminded male to enjoy interesting conversations over dinner, hopefully furthering our experience. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399195**

BLACK beautiful female, 5ft 7ins, likes most things in life, seeks special male for companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398391**

SANDRA outgoing 53, carer, seeks male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390230**

48YR old female, kind, loving, caring, genuine, fun loving, loves music, singing, theatre, holidays, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387797**

FEMALE looking for male for friendship and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392365**

45YR old female, 5ft 5ins, brown hair, cuddly, curvaceous, love animals, music, sports, seeks kind, caring, sincere, mature male, 40 plus with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381319**

PAT widowed mid 60's blonde female, loves dancing, happy-go-lucky WLTM similar aged nice male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389195**

FEMALE 21, brown eyes, loving, looking for male, 20-30 for nights in and loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396057**

INTERESTING attractive, uncomplicated, intelligent lady, many interests, seeks honourable, kind gent, 68-75 for long term companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392211**

SUE 54, fairly slim, blue eyes, brown hair, seeks male, 45-55, N/S, likes football, sports, meals out etc., looking for lasting relationship and cuddles. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392803**

WIDOW 70's, many interests, seeks gent who misses companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396401**

SUE 53, slim, blue eyes, likes football, animals, seeks N/S male, 45-55 for loving, lasting relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386247**

FEMALE likes country walks, gardening, animals, seeks male for company, meals out and nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390147**

VALERIE looking for genuine male for nights out and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387173**

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LYNETTE 60, South African, new to area, N/S, sociable, like the outdoors, looking for new friends. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386387**

HAPPY young looking 71yr old female, likes life, fit, active, seeks male, 60 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393065**

DEBBIE 47, single parent, likes motorsport, seeking male with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398127**

*18+ Only. Texts to 65125 cost £1.50/msg, min of 2 msgs. To STOP text STOP to 65125 See t&cs below

YOUNG looking lady, late 50's, medium build, caring, intelligent, seeks kind, caring, intelligent man with GSOH of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398095**

ANNETTE 58, 5ft 1ins, cuddly, affectionate, likes animals, seeks kind, gentleman to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394923**

LYN 59, slim, fair, looking for someone to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397347**

LOUISE loving, caring, thoughtful lady, likes photography, countryside, animals, seeks mature, N/S, genuine, caring, N/S gent with car to settle down with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397239**

BLACK female, 30, likes animals, swimming, music, singing, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395941**

LUCY kind caring, honest, fuller figured, blonde, blue eyes, 44, looking for older man, kind, caring and honest. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395805**

LORRAINE 5ft 9ins, medium build, 49, bubbly, looking for male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386401**

CLAUDIA curvy size 20, Mediterranean, blonde hair, brown eyes, seeks mature male, 40-55 for friendship, companionship and enjoy life together. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373611**

HAPPY go lucky lady, seeks tall, honest guy, 50-56 hopefully with a boat. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392529**

PAT 67, 5ft 4ins, medium build, blonde hair, widow, likes dancing, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390201**

KENTISH lady, 50, no longer wishes to make do or mend broken heart, seeks kind gent to form patchwork moments. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392865**

MARY fun loving brunette, seeking friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382689**

63YR old female, loving, tactile, seeks genuine male, 60-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381863**

HAZEL blonde, 62, pretty, cuddly, N/S, non drinker, seeks genuine, attractive male, 55-65 for fun and friendship. Ramsgate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366319**

JO bubbly, fun, red hair, green eyes, 5ft 5ins, likes nights out, DVDs, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374337**

MAIDSTONE lady, pretty, petite, late 50's, honest, caring, N/S, loves life and most things, seeks nice guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366501**

JULIE late 70's, petite, widowed, seeks gent with car and GSOH who loves animals. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379277**

49YR old lady, honest, sincere, easygoing, likes a laugh, looking for love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359059**

LONELY Folkestone lady, 57, 5ft 1ins, medium build, N/S, seeks caring, considerate male for walks by the sea and pubs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371067**

Men Seeking

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people.

Send : CHAT601 To : 65125 (T&C's below)

JAMIE tall slim fit 63 solvent generous retired seeks vivacious fun lady for no strings fun. Any age/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400211**

DAVID 51 medium build short hair blue eyes widowed likes nights in/out walks with dog caring thoughtful seeks honest genuine female 45-56 for friendship maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400099**

BUILDER 43, tall, good looking, GSOH, kind, considerate, easy going, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399935**

LONELY male, 75, 6ft, N/S, OHAC, seeks lady for friendship/companionship to share our twilight years. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393830**

51YR old male, dark hair, 6ft, N/S, good looking, likes finer things in life, seeks lady for fun times and TLC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399867**

PLEASANT single black male, slim, 41, good natured, likes most things, seeks likeminded lady for possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399825**

FUN fit, friendly 50yr old male, medium build, seeking female for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400045**

DEREK 52, black male, honest, trustworthy, loyal, hardworking, likes nights out, meals out, quiet pubs, seeking similar lady for serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393886**

JACK 28, fun loving, seeking female to share the good and bad times with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393878**

DOWN to earth 49yr old male, GSOH, OHAC, happy go lucky, fit, intelligent, witty, many interests, seeks young at heart female to share life experiences with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399965**

YOUNG 64yr old male, slim, GSOH, adventurous, outgoing, likes most things, seeks easy going, laidback, open-minded lady for friendship and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399539**

BRIAN 6ft 3ins, medium build, dark hair, seeking romantic, caring lady for meals out, nights in, cuddles and true love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399451**

ADRIAN young 59, likes travel, sports, seeks fun, attractive lady 40-50's. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399355**

20YR old male, looking for female, 45-50 for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393676**

RAY 41, shy, likes gardening, allotments, mopeds, seeks shy lady 41-50 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397301**

MALE 67, 14st, tall, educated, happy go lucky, seeks nice female, 50-65 for companionship. Folkestone/Deal area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398743**

INDEPENDENT 52yr old slim, N/S female, likes country walks, swimming, animals, meals/days out, seeks N/S similar aged male for friendship/companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366099**

TRACEY 46, 5ft 8ins, long hair, fit, slim, seeks honest, reliable, attractive, tall, slim guy for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 335375**

CARING affectionate female, 64, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, seeks male, 60-70 with GSOH for friendship/companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384871**

BLACK lady, 52, likes cinema, nights in/out, seeking male, 49-55 to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390925**

SANDRA 63, likes cuddles, varied interests, WLTM male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383497**

SUSIE from Kent, seeking tall honest guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375883**

MARY likes most things, nights out, socialising, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383847**

LISA tall slim elegant black lady looking for gentleman for company, 50-90yrs. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391394**

RICHARD seeking young female for good times and fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397883**

WIDOWER 70, lonely, fed up, seeks female for nights out, meals and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397875**

MARTYN 45, average guy, likes films, theatre, meals out, GSOH, seeks similar female for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397863**

RICHARD 60, 5ft 11ins, medium build, N/S, driver, looking for female for meals out, places of interest. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393508**

BOBBY 39, Afro/Asian decent, dark hair/eyes, likes nights in/out, walks, animals, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398147**

PAUL 51, blond, blue eyes, fed up, likes walks, nights in/out seeks lady, 50-60 for friendship and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398991**

PHIL young 63, GSOH, 6ft, medium build, easy going, seeking female, all woman for lots of love and attention. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399149**

YOUNG toy boy, GSOH, seeks mature, attractive, curvy lady, 45-55 for fun times and laughter. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398419**

74YR old widower, honest, fit, likes walks, weekends away, seeks lady for companionship. Maidstone/Medway area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398247**

THANET male, smart, young 60's, caring, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, likes travel, countryside, seeks slim, attractive, local soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398661**

ROGER 56, smoker, brown hair/eyes, average build, likes most things, seeks female for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397243**

DAN 44, fun, seeking nice female to share Sundays and lonely Winter nights with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398425**

PAUL 63, white, N/S, GSOH, varied interests, considerate, reliable, caring, seeks romantic, understanding lady, 47-67 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398971**

GHOST researcher 65, slim, dark hair, WLTM amiable, slim female companion in Canterbury/Folkestone area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398937**

SLIM retired gent, seeks female, 55-70 for friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397723**

MARK 49, likes running, music, cinema, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393554**

RICHARD dark hair, blue eyes, slim-medium build, 5ft 6ins, likes holidays, theatre, travel, countryside, walks, meals out, seeks female, 37-69 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398767**

HANDSOME tall guy 40's, slim, smart, climber, skier, holidayed, happy disposition, seeks slim, petite lady for great relationship/times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397271**

PROFESSIONAL male, OHAC, independent, early 40's, likes good things in life, seeks warm, sincere female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398115**

ALAN 72, WLTM someone nice, age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393719**

Gay Seeking

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IF YOU'RE LOOKING to connect and chat with other men look no further TXT: **GAY601** to **65125** for 3 chat matches, fun and safe service. **(T&C's below)**

Go online - www.localgay-date.co.uk

GAY male, new to scene, seeks male, 50-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400025**

MUSCULAR male, likes wrestling, fast cars, seeks similar dominant male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399939**

BI guy 44, looking for broadminded bi guy 45 plus for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395165**

STEVE 45, bi, CD, green eyes, seeking TV/CD for daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397621**

48YR old she male, seeks kind, caring boyfriend in Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397381**

Friendship

JACK mature male, Thanet area, seeks friends of either sex, any age for chats. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399455**

STRAIGHT male, 39, Medway, seeks pals for socialising, likes pubs, cinema, golf, table tennis, football. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398421**

Women TEXT FOR FUN!

*see t&c's below. No meetings implied or guaranteed. **Texts cost £1.50** per message Help Desk: **0844 445 7707**

GUYS TEXT FOR FUN. SEND KOS followed by the box number of the person you wish to chat to and send to **66888** (T&C's below)

50Yr old Christian brunette, attractive, friendly, lonely, likes bowling, reading, cooking, outdoor life**. Text KOS 154567 to 66888**

BEAUTIFUL thing, attractive lady, n/s, beautician, enjoys fashion, antique fairs, days out & country drives. Want to know more. Text me**. Text KOS 159134 to 66888**

FUN blue eyed blonde, a little dizzy at times but a big bundle of fun. **Text KOS 163788 to 66888**

HEY guys! My interests include music, reading, tattoos, cooking, hanging out with mates and many more things. Text me! **Text KOS 168355 to 66888**

I AM an adventurous, outgoing and loyal person. I enjoy going places and trying new things I am a very active person. **Text KOS 172922 to 66888**

FUN, bubbly, happy go lucky, single, mummy, work hard, play hard, friends, family, horse, gym, wine, movies, random nights **Text KOS 218842 to 66888**

I LOVE going out and having a laugh. Im new to all this, so be patient lol. **Text KOS 182056 to 66888**

Men TEXT FOR FUN!

*see t&c's below. No meetings implied or guaranteed. **Texts cost £1.50** per message Help Desk: **0844 445 7707**

LADIES TEXT FOR FUN. SEND KOS followed by the box number of the person you wish to chat to and send to **66888** (T&C's below)

DIVORCED Male 59, VGSOH, n/s easy-going, enjoy music, poker, cooking, watch football, having a pint in a local pub. **Text KOS 488556 to 66888**

I LOVE the arts, countryside and eating out. Honest, sensuous, with lots to share and give. **Text KOS 493123 to 66888**

I HAVE many interests but derive pleasure from everyday things,whether it be a walk in the park or a coffee by the river. **Text KOS 497690 to 66888**

ROMANTIC guy. I have many interests, but derive pleasure from everyday things, whether it be a walk in a park or coffee by the river. **Text KOS 502257 to 66888**

SPORTY gentleman. 46 yo I have a fun friendly chatty personality! Drop me a line :) **Text KOS 506824 to 66888**

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0906 515 7112

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THE INTERVIEW

Shane Lynch

Panto casts its spell on Shane

Joe Bill talks to the Boyzone star who has turned from Prince Charming into one wicked wizard

THE music industry could not move for boy bands in the Nineties, but the genuinely successful ones who produced hit record after hit record were a little harder to find.

In the UK and Ireland there were three that dominated. The self-imploding East 17, the hit-machine known as Take That and the lads from the emerald isle, Boyzone.

The Irish contingent bagged 18 Top 10 hits in the UK charts, including six No 1 singles and five No 1 albums. That's a lot, by any standards.

So it's fair to say that Boyzone member Shane Lynch has seen the very highest points to which being in a boy band can take you.

But after his bad-boy image got the better of him in the late 90s, Lynch turned to other skills as well as finding a new passion... God.

After admitting he got a little too deep into Ouija boards, "the dark side" and the occult at the end of his boy-band days, Lynch was baptised a Christian in 2003 and this helped him put his efforts into developing both his motor-racing and acting careers.

The singer stars in the pantomime Aladdin at the Stag arts centre in Sevenoaks, playing the part of evil wizard Abanazar.

He said: "I've never done panto as a bad guy – I think I've done seven shows as the prince.

"I've had it easy for six years. The first time, you have to get to know the part, but after that they're pretty much the same. So I was pretty comfortable. When I was offered this role, I realised I sat much more comfortably with this than I ever did as a prince.

"It's really quite enjoyable. I never got to enjoy the stage before. When it comes to the love story between the prince and the princess, it's quite serious and you can't have laughable moments because you're telling the story.

"This is the first time I've got a bit of freedom and I feel a lot less pressurised. In rehearsals I'm laughing and joking – it's quite fluid and easy, so I'm really looking forward to it.

"I can be direct, stern and then able to break character and have banter before getting back into the evilness of Abanazar."

Lynch lives a short distance from Sevenoaks, in West Sussex, and was delighted to accept the role so close to his home and wife and daughter.

"Last year was the first year I spent away from my family doing panto and I said I would never do it again, so when this role came up it meant I could jump out of bed and nearly be here, especially when it comes to Christmas and transport and all that."

The 36-year-old has also confirmed another tour with his Boyzone counterparts in 2013 to coincide with the 20th anniversary of the band's creation: "We're meeting up pretty soon to get in the studio and make a new album for our 20 years of Boyzone.

"I believe we're going to remix 10 old songs and 10 new songs as a 20-track album then tour later next year. We'll have to talk about it all because if we tour November and December I will pretty much miss out on panto stuff. Most people will think 'So what? You're going on tour!', but I've only missed one year of panto since 2003 and I didn't like it.

"Far from being blessed with being raised in stage schools, I was just a lucky guy, so when I get offered these opportunities I feel very honoured and I want to continue that."

But does the now family man miss being with the group full-time?

"I think it was 2007 when we first came back – we then went on tour in 08, 09, 10 and 11, so I think this year just gone is the only one we haven't toured, so I still had the freedom of touring with the lads.

"But we don't travel in a tour bus any more – we all travel separately. We all have our own tour managers and security for the simple reason that we are busy guys. There was one tour I was qualifying in the British Drift Championship [motor-racing] during the day and getting a helicopter to the venue that night. I was doing a gig and then getting a helicopter back in the morning.

"If we're on a tour bus, that's almost impossible. Everyone has a very individual life on tour. But as long as we're there for half past seven to put the clothes on and get on stage, then everything is fine.

"The evenings generally consist of us hanging around together all night anyway. So it's good, it's a nice life."

After stints in reality TV shows like Celebrity Love Island and The Games, in which he took home the gold medal, Lynch divides his time between acting and motorcar-racing. He has already starred in Sky One drama Dream Team and a number of stage shows, but it is something he has to push himself to achieve.

"One of the biggest problems for me is auditions. I won't audition, but only because it frightens the heck out of me. It's a weird thing to say, but I'm dyslexic so the general aspect of giving me a script to read from freaks me out.

"I enjoyed the few years of Dream Team I did, but I pushed myself hard to do it. When I was in the moment, I could do it, but when I got out of it, it was like a release.

"The thing I love about panto – yes it's a pressurised time to learn scripts, but it's not West End and not that serious."

In his spare time Lynch has become one of the most revered drift-car-racers around and is looking to continue his driving career next year with a move into UK rallycross.

"I'm almost looking to come out of drifting now. I've almost gone as far as I can with it. I'm ranked in the top five in Europe and I drive at all the biggest shows around the UK.

"You can't go any further with drifting unless you head to the States. Over there, it's a million pound a season and you're into big sponsorships and it gets very, very serious. I almost got out of motorsport back in the day when I raced British GTs because it got too serious and there was big money involved. I didn't enjoy it any more and my life is always about enjoyment."

As a side project the Boyzone man has also turned businessman, having got involved with companies like Prestige Wrap – a car-wrapping company that uses vinyl to customise any vehicle – as well as Ver2 Vodka, the UK's first energy vodka.

But for now Lynch is happy to push on with his solo projects in music and racing as well as rejoin Boyzone one more time. And panto is pretty high on his list, too.

"You're still the same guy no matter if it's in front of 20,000 people or 800, and no matter what you're doing on that stage."

■ **Aladdin plays at The Stag Community Arts Centre, Sevenoaks, until Sunday, January 6, 2013. Tickets cost £17 for adults, £15 for children and £46 for families. Visit www.sevenoakspanto.com or phone 01732 450175 to book.**

Picture: JACQUELINE KIRKLAND WWW.CLOUDLYNCH.CO.UK

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01227 751207 www.theredlion.org

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EATING **OUT**

Across the county

Festive dishes in a setting that is laced with class

THE Black Pig is a fine 16th-century timbered building with a large garden and plenty of parking. It has a modern, comfortable restaurant and bar area with a welcoming atmosphere and brilliant menu. The chefs provide an extensive range of home-cooked meals, establishing an excellent reputation for dining.

The team has become famous for its Host Your Roast meals on Sundays at which the chefs cook the food but the customer carves the meat for a minimum of six guests.

To add sparkle to the run-up to Christmas, The Black Pig is offering a set lunch menu priced at £10 for two courses and £12 for three; this runs from Tuesday to Saturday.

Early-birds can grab a real deal on the Buy One Get One Free dinner deal. Again, this will run from Tuesday to Saturday between 6pm and 7pm. Wednesday night is 'wine night', at which two people dining will get a bottle of wine free with their meals.

There is a pre-Christmas menu running to Christmas Eve, offering two courses for £22.50 and three courses from £25.50.

There will also be a Christmas Day lunch sitting and guests will have a glass of fizz and canapés on arrival. The price is £65 per head.

■ **The Black Pig**
Barnsole Road, Staple, near Canterbury CT3 1LE (phone 01304 813000, website www.theblackpig.co.uk)

CHEF RECOMMENDS

THE BLACK PIG: 01304 813000
www.theblackpig.co.uk
Starter: Black pudding, bacon-and-potato cake topped with poached egg and served with hollandaise sauce.
Main: Lamb rump with garlic-and-herb mash and Shrewsbury sauce served with seasonal vegetables.
Dessert: Bread-and-butter pudding with an extra kick!

THE RED LION: 01227 751207
www.theredlion.org
Starter: Pan-fried pigeon breast in butter and black pepper.
Main: Slow-roasted lamb shank on the bone, baked in the oven until tender on a bed of mashed potatoes, served with minted peas.
Dessert: Pecan pie.

ACORN INN: 01843 841196
Starter: Fresh smoked salmon and king prawns served on a bed of mixed salad with dressing.
Main: Cannon of lamb served with fresh vegetables, new potatoes and a port-and-redcurrant jus.
Dessert: A selection of home-made desserts is available.

FISHERMAN'S WHARF: 01304 813636
Starter: Baked Brie filo parcels with wild rocket and red pesto.
Main: Grilled swordfish with chorizo sausage and mozzarella crust and pesto dressing.
Dessert: Tarte au citron with crème fraîche.

WAGGON AT HALE: 01634 400800
www.waggonathale.com
Starter: Garlic prawns served on a bed of mixed leaves
Main: Hunter's chicken... chicken breast topped with bacon, barbecue sauce and Cheddar cheese. Served with Beefeater chips, salad and coleslaw.
Dessert: Home-made bannoffee pots.

WHAT A PLACE! The Red Lion is set in the wonderful location of Hernhill... do images of England come any lovelier?

Savour the Lion traditional country Christmas menu

ON the village green opposite the church, the black-beamed, white-walled Red Lion could well be the perfect English-postcard image.

Located in the picturesque village of Hernhill, the warm, cosy atmosphere at the Lion will make you want to stay all day and all night.

With the tradtional log-fires, live entertainment and quality home-cooked food, this free house has something for everyone.

Out in the garden there is an enclosed children's play area, while there is also a sunny front patio on which to sit and enjoy a relaxing meal or cool drink during the summer.

These great features make the pub a desirable location for families, not to mention big celebrations, with parties often catered for, or even just a bit of romance.

There is a wide selection of real ales available at the bar and the pub is renowned for holding real-ale festivals on the village green throughout the year. There is also a good selection of wines and beers for every taste.

For food The Red Lion offers a good choice of meals from the à la carte menu. The specials change with the seasons to use the right ingredients at the right time of year.

The team has recently launched its new Taste of Kent menu, serving dishes and ingredients sourced within just a couple of miles of the pub.

Food is served daily Monday to Saturday from midday to 2.30pm and 6pm to 9pm. On Sunday it is served from midday to 8pm.

Christmas-party booking is also now available – so book now to avoid disappointment!

The pub will be open on New Year's Eve and feature live music as well as a DJ throughout the night. It will stay open from 7pm to late and entry is free.

The Christmas menu will feature the traditional dishes like roast turkey with all the trimmings, but a number of other choices also appears.

Example menu: To start, perhaps try the smoked-duck-and-orange salad or classic prawn cocktail.

The mains could be a choice from a number of options including bronzed turkey served with potatoes roasted in dripping and vegetables or tender pork belly stuffed with the Red Lion stuffing topped with a cider-and-grated-apple sauce and roast potatoes.

Try a board of the local cheeses to finish, or get very festive with the traditional Christmas pudding covered with brandy butter.

■ **The Red Lion, Crockham Lane, Hernhill ME13 9JR (phone 01227 751207, website www.theredlion.org)**

Set sail for a top party meal at the wharf

THE Ash family took over the Fisherman's Wharf restaurant in Sandwich 15 years ago and the eatery has gone from strength to strength.

It is situated next to the old toll bridge in the delightful ancient town of Sandwich, where diners have a super, picturesque view of the entrancing River Stour.

The favourable position is emphasised by three dining areas, including a flower-filled courtyard and upstairs area overlooking the waterside.

There is a choice of dishes ranging from à la carte to tasty snacks and sandwiches.

There is also a large selection of meat and fish dishes available and a senior citizens' menu, as well as a great set menu and children's menu.

Themed nights are organised throughout the year. In the coming holiday season, Christmas-party meals will be available from £15.95.

The team will also be taking the effort out of your Boxing Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, offering a 'Super Set Lunch' at just £12.95 for two courses from the delicious special menu.

You can contact the team for more information.

■ **Fisherman's Wharf**
The Quay
Sandwich CT13 9RU
(phone 01304 613636
email Fishwharf36@aol.com)

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

A venue with good reason to be confident, whatever the season

It's perhaps a sign of ultimate confidence in your abilities as a restaurant that you feel no need to make culinary concession to the Christmas festivities, maybe some sparkly decorations aside. So it is that diners at the Minster Tandoori in Thanet will not be faced with the dubious delights of, say, turkey shashlik, pigs-in-blankets bhuna or bubble-and-squeak samosas (although there's a thought!).

No, the Minster Tandoori is happy to set its stall by what it does year on year, month on month, day on day.

That it is able to so is doubtless down to its handsome reputation, one that extends way beyond the village itself.

It is also a must-visit for many of those who spend their summers or weekends at the nearby holiday park – this is a restaurant that is clearly doing something right.

And do it right it must. The competition here is strong... and growing. Minster is not, thankfully, a large village, yet, in addition to the tandoori, it can boast two restaurant-cum-bistros, two Chinese eateries, three pubs serving food, a fish-and-chip restaurant and a kebab house, the last two relatively recent additions to the line-up. At the top of the hill, amid the unlovely sprawl that has grown up around the garage, lurk a McDonald's and a Table Table. This is a place

RESTAURANT **REVIEW**

where self-discipline is a vital component of the psyche if you're to keep both the waist and the overdraft under some kind of control.

But eat we must... and here I want to tell you about something rather special. It's called murgh masala, and it's done exceptionally well at the Minster Tandoori.

As is often the way with Indian food in the UK, there is a variety of opinion regarding the precise components of the dish. What does seem accepted, though, is that murgh masala means simply 'spicy chicken'. Accordingly, in some restaurants this is just another chicken choice, although in others it entails lamb mince with tandoori-chicken (drumsticks work best). It is the latter approach that is taken at Minster.

The combination of the mince (or 'keema') and the spiced chicken in the distinctively-flavoured sauce is enough on its own to place this dish in my personal top 10, but it is the addition of the humble hard-boiled egg that takes it to another place.

An under-used technique, this, and certainly there's a time and a place for it, but an egg can so often lift a curry to a higher level.

Although this was a visit dominated by one very special dish, the supporting cast has always to step up to the plate if the entire experience is to be top-drawer.

Reshmi kebab (another role for the egg!) to start the whole thing off; keema naan and sag aloo as sides... yes, Minster Tandoori had got it right from start to finish. If you're wanting a break from more traditional Christmas fare in the coming weeks, then stride out to this excellent restaurant. Happy Christmas!

Dave Mairs

■ **Minster Tandoori**
1 High Street, Minster CT12 4BU
(telephone 01843 822516)

Get stuffed courtesy of Kent food website

STUFFED AND SPOILT is the name of a web-based company specialising in Kentish food.

It is the brainchild of Ashleigh Jenkins and was launched in 2011 after an idea she had following discussions with a friend who was looking for a locally-produced gift to send.

The website enables customers to order produce not available in stores that can then be despatched along with a gift card.

Ashleigh, from Rochester, said: "I started by sourcing Kent food- and drink-producers, visiting them at farms, homes, farmers' markets and small shops, buying and tasting samples.

"I eventually had a website professionally designed and I wanted to create a brand with a 'country life' feel to reflect the quality of the products I chose to sell.

"I also wanted the brand to be fun and memorable, which was how I thought of the name.

"The majority of suppliers are small cottage industries and make their produce by hand. I spent time designing hampers and gifts with the purchaser in mind, trying to create gifts for any occasion.

"I found my first Christmas quite busy and definitely a learning curve and am still working on ways to improve the business further."

The last order date for Christmas is Wednesday, December 19... the hampers are proving particularly popular!

• Visit www.stuffedandspoilt.co.uk; phone Ashleigh on 01634 254884 or 07715 546590; email ashleigh@stuffedandspoilt.co.uk.

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The need for speed
Christmas karting

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01634 20156
www.buckmore.co.uk; sales@buckmore.co.uk

FOR fast and furious fun, you can't beat karting.

To experience the thrill of outdoor karting, head for the award-winning Buckmore Park 1,000m international floodlit outdoor circuit, just off junction 3 of the M2.

British world champions Lewis Hamilton and Jenson Button learnt their trade at the venue, which celebrates its 50th anniversary next year.

The popular kids' karting parties for ages 4-16 (either 30 minutes or an hour) are available for up to 12 drivers, and parties can incorporate a meal and be combined with laser-warfare games for ages 8-16.

Look out for stag- and hen-party options, plus the turn-up-and-drive sessions.

Slip and slide on indoor ice
Wonderful!

Glow, Bluewater
Open until Sunday, January 13
020 71007100
bluewaterwinterwonderland.co.uk

BLUEWATER'S Winter Wonderland is open and ready to deliver Christmas magic.

There is an indoor ice-rink, a 40-metre snow-slide and Santa's Grotto, all set within a festive wonderland with snow scenes and toy characters.

Snow will fall as you skate beneath the stars to Christmas songs, you can meet Father Christmas and his helpers in the workshop and you can take a trip to the 4D cinema.

Watch out, too, for the winter carousels and dodgems.

The wonderland is open from 10am-10pm but closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Skating tickets are priced at £12 for adults, £10 for juniors (aged 13-16) and £8 for children (aged 4-12).

Still cooking on the gas
Hairy Bikers

Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone
Saturday, March 16, 2013
0844 871 3015
www.leascliffhall.co.uk

THOSE men of the moment, The Hairy Bikers, have scheduled a pit-stop at the Leas Cliff Hall next year.

Their Larger Than Live tour will see the pair bring audiences into their crazy world for an evening of laughter, high jinks and just possibly a bit of cooking.

Audiences will be regaled with tales from their culinary expeditions, some hair-raising, many ridiculous and all shared in the Bikers' style.

Big, blonde-bearded Simon King and fellow biker Dave Myers have become a staple in the world of TV chefs with their BBC Two hit show The Hairy Bikers' Cookbook.

Tickets are priced at £25 and expected to sell fast, so book now!

Robert Cray
A legend of of rock blues

Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells
Saturday, March 9
01892 530613

GUITARIST Robert Cray returns to the UK with his 16th studio album, Nothin But Love, and a new UK tour.

With five Grammy Awards, 15 nominations, millions of record sales worldwide and thousands of sold-out performances, rock-blues icon Cray is considered one of the greatest guitarists of his generation.

He has written or performed with everyone from Eric Clapton and Stevie Ray Vaughan to John Lee Hooker.

For 30 years Cray has helped to shape the blues on the national scene, especially in the 1980s with his breakthrough album Strong Persuader in 1986.

Tickets are priced from £29.50-£39.50 and available from www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.

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The boys are back in town
Rat Pack Live

The Marlowe, Canterbury
Thursday, January 24
01227 787787
www.marlowetheatre.com

BOASTING stars from the West End, a new spectacular featuring the kings of swing – Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jnr and Dean Martin – is coming to town.

Described as possessing "all the panache of Frank, Sammy and Dean during their Vegas heyday", Rat Pack Live combines big-band swing with an all-star cast.

Mark Halliday is fresh from portraying Dean Martin in the West End, while Richard Shelton, as Frank Sinatra, gained rave reviews as Ol' Blue Eyes in Rat Pack Confidential, which was also a West End hit.

Jim Whitley plays Sammy Davis Jnr with an extensive history of UK tours behind him.

Tickets are priced from £21.50-£23.50.

Magic of Mac
Rumours of a supergroup

The Orchard, Dartford
Saturday, February 9
01322 220000
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

RE-CREATING the innovative blues of the Sixties through to the glory of Rumours, an album that helped define the Seventies, Rumours Of Fleetwood Mac show how tribute acts make their money.

With brilliant stagecraft and mesmerising music, the tribute group take Fleetwood Mac fans up to the Eighties in their portrayal of a true supergroup.

Having received Mick Fleetwood's golden seal of approval, the Rumours show is a must for any Mac disciple.

Let classics such as Black Magic Woman, Dreams, Gypsy and Little Lies take you back to the band's magical heyday.

After 10 years and with a million concert tickets sold, Rumours Of Fleetwood Mac are among the tribute elite.

Tickets are priced from £23.50-£27.50.

The Specials
See the kings of ska

The Winter Gardens, Margate
Saturday, May 25, 2013
01843 292795
www.margatewintergardens.co.uk

WHEN The Specials re-formed in 2009 for their 30th anniversary, not many would have foreseen the band still travelling the world four years on.

The demand to see the ska legends has meant that the group continue to perform hundreds of sold-out concerts and are embarking on another tour in 2013, calling in at Margate's Winter Gardens.

Famous for classic hits like Too Much Too Young, Monkey Man and A Message To You, The Specials is one gig that no seaside stomper will want to miss.

Tickets are priced at £35 and on sale now.

Santa's grotto
The red man goes green

Chartham Garden Centre, near Canterbury
01227 731033
canterburygardencentre.co.uk

YOUNGSTERS will be able to visit Father Christmas in his grotto at Canterbury Chartham Garden Centre every weekend throughout this month.

Sarah Baker, manager of the garden centre on Ashford Road, said: "We are delighted to welcome Father Christmas.

"He will be hosting his grottos in addition to the breakfast and teas he will be doing here on selected dates throughout December."

Santa will be availble every weekend up to Sunday, December 23, from 11am-4pm.

Entry to the grotto costs £7 per child, which includes a visit to Father Christmas and a gift.

Breakfasts and teas with Santa and his elves are available on selected days.

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ARCHANT KOS MEDIA

Alfie's parents share recipes for life

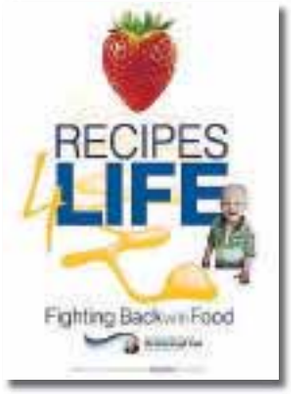
By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

A SPECIAL recipe book has been launched by a Kent couple who lost their son to cancer.

Dean and Sarah Gough have launched the cooking manual Recipes For Life – Fighting Back With Food in memory of Alfie, who died when just two years old.

Each dish featured in the book was eaten by Alfie when he was battling stage 4 neuroblastoma and his parents believe that the diet they chose for their son helped give him the best possible quality of life in his fight.

Mum Sarah said: "The side-effects of the chemotherapy were barely noticeable. He had no hair, of course, but he gained weight on treatment and he never suffered any of the symptoms we were warned about. We are 100 per cent convinced this was due to the diet we had chosen for Alfie."



Several celebrities have pledged their support already, including chef Gary Rhodes OBE, who donating his leek-and-potato soup recipe for use in the cookbook.

Sir Ian Botham, who visited Alfie at Great Ormond Street Hospital in April 2010, said: "I am delighted to be part of this book in memory of a special boy and knowing that the success of this book will be Alfie's legacy living on to help others."

Dean and Sarah share their nutritional knowledge in the publication, hoping to help families in a similar situation with information on the importance of nutrition.

Dad Dean said: "We learnt a lot about nutrition from the experts in this country and even when we went across to an alternative clinic in Mexico. In summary, the common theme we found was focused on purity and cleansing the system to allow the immune system and the body's natural defences to work correctly."

In addition to helping people, it is hoped the book will raise money for the charity set up in memory of Alfie – The Alfie Gough Trust.

Sarah said: "By providing families with what we found was essential nutritional information, the aim is to reduce some of the side-effects of the chemotherapy, ultimately keeping a child with this disease stronger during the treatment, giving them the immune support to help fight this disease."

Recipes For Life – Fighting Back With Food is published by Ecademy Press and priced at £15.99.

For more about the trust and how to get a copy of the book, you can visit www.alfiestrust.com.

Can you help to keep bay protectors online?

A CONSERVATION group in one of Kent's most embattled natural areas needs a new webmaster.

The Pegwell & District Association has had to tackle any number of threats in its near-constant struggle to keep the developers at bay and maintain Pegwell Bay and the Western Undercliff area of Ramsgate as a relatively unspoilt place for wildlife and people alike.

Perhaps its main claim to fame was the successful campaign in 1987 to have the Ramsgate ferry terminal access road re-routed so it would cause minimal environmental destruction.

Now, with its webmaster retiring due to ill-health, the association is seeking a volunteer to manage its website and newsletter.

Contact Richard Kinzler at kinzler@btinternet.com if you would like to help.

Fairport Convention and OMD are heading for musical Margate

TWO top bands have confirmed appearances in Margate in the New Year.

Veteran folk-rock outfit Fairport Convention, pictured, will visit Theatre Royal on Wednesday, February 13, and Orchestral Manoeuvres In The Dark will be playing The Winter Gardens on Sunday, April 28.

With a vast back catalogue from which to draw, plus frequent new releases, Fairport are able to present a fresh repertoire each year.

Each concert will open with a short set by John Watterson, who will perform his own interpretation of songs by the late Jake Thackray, noted for his quirkily humorous lyrics.

"We always enjoy visiting Margate – the Theatre Royal is a great venue," said Simon Nicol, who co-founded the band in 1967.

OMD rose to fame with their fourth single, Enola Gay, which became a hit throughout Europe in 1980, and achieved worldwide popularity the following year with their third album, Architecture & Morality.

Phone 01843 292795/296111 for tickets to either gig.

Picture: BEN NICHOLSON

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Chancellor misses chance to give SMEs a real boost, says disappointed analyst

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

Although small businesses can be grateful for some good news in George Osborne's Autumn Statement, more action is needed to spark a light at the end of the tunnel for the Kent economy, warns one county financial expert

CHANCELLOR George Osborne has missed the chance to boost the economy by helping small and medium-sized businesses, according to a financial analyst.

Nigel Stanford, of Tunbridge Wells accountancy Cripps Harries Hall, said SMEs had needed more from Osborne's Autumn Statement to promote growth.

However, some aspects of the address to MPs have drawn praise from both business and politics – such as the cut in corporation tax and the scrapping of a proposed rise in fuel duty.

Stanford said: "My feeling is that although there are some welcome elements in the Autumn Statement, many SMEs would have been looking for something more radical to give them a boost – for example a holiday from business rates.

"Clearly the reduction in corporation-tax rates will be welcomed, as will the increase in the annual investment allowance.

"That said, if you are an SME who is feeling locked out of the bank lending market, whether you can raise the cash necessary to make the investment that qualifies for the increased allowance must be debatable.

"For the smaller end of the SME market, arguably the most welcome piece of news will be the cancellation in the 3p per litre rise in fuel duty as this was due to have had an immediate and unwelcome impact upon their cost bases."

The Chancellor admitted Britain would miss its targets on reducing the national debt but insisted the economy was "slowly healing".

He said the economy was taking longer than expected to recover and the deficit was "far too large for comfort" because of the debt crisis in Europe.

Osborne will also cut corporation tax further to just 21 per cent, compared with 40 per cent in the US and 33 per cent in France.

The changes to income tax mean more people will have to pay the 40p tax rate because he is raising the earnings threshold by just 1 per cent to £41,865 in 2014 and £42,285 in 2015 – below the current rate of inflation. This move will save the Treasury about £1 billion.

On pensions, the tax-free allowance will be cut from £1.5 million to £1.25 million over a lifetime from 2014 onwards. The annual allowance will be cut from £50,000 to £40,000.

CHOP: From left, Chancellor George Osborne has scrapped the proposed fuel-duty increase, pleasing both Swale MP Gordon Henderson and the FSB's Roger House

The county's Federation of Small Businesses chairman Roger House said: "I'm impressed he [Osborne] cancelled the rise in fuel duty, and the cut in corporation tax is welcome,

"He has also helped people who are not earning a lot of money.

"In the case of the higher tax bracket I don't know how many people in the business community I am part of earn more than £41,000 – but I'm guessing it's not many.

"But the first thing I felt is just how grim it is economically – that the state we're in is a bit scary, I suppose."

Osborne said the country was "heading in the right direction" as he laid out spending and taxation plans.

He will cut Whitehall spending by at least 1 per cent – or £5 billion – but will not increase taxes overall as any rises will be offset by cuts elsewhere.

He said it was possible to "restore sanity to public finances" at the same time as improving public services.

"It's taking time, but the British economy is healing," he told MPs.

"People know there are no quick fixes... but they want to know that we are making progress.

"We are making progress. It's a hard road, but we are getting there.

"Britain is on the right track and turning back now would be a disaster."

Fellow Conservative Party members were also positive.

Sittingbourne and Sheppey MP Gordon Henderson said: "In a week in which we have seen more job losses in my constituency, the decision to scrap the proposed 3p per litre planned for by the previous Labour government is a much-needed boost not only for private motorists but also hard-pressed firms.

"I was delighted to see many working people will next year see an income-tax cut and I know local businesses will welcome the other measure the Chancellor announced, including the drop in corporation tax and the small-business rate relief.

"Times are tough. But the economy is healing and the measures announced will bring welcome support to families and businesses in Sittingbourne and Sheppey."

Kent County Council's Mike Whiting, cabinet member for education, learning and skills, said: "I welcome the extra £1bn funding for education over the next two years. We all know there are pressures in the South East on school places and welcome any extra help which may be available for expanding existing schools or building new ones."

Sidcup accountancy McBrides said that while there was little to celebrate the news was not all bad.

McBrides tax partner Terry Baldwin said businesses could take heart from a tenfold increase in tax allowances on plant and machinery.

Paul Wookey, chief executive of Locate in Kent, said: "The cut in corporation tax from April 2014 will make the UK more attractive to overseas investment.

"Coupled with the announcement of increased funding for UK Trade and Investment [UKTI], this can only be good news for Kent. We have worked hard to build a strong relationship with UKTI, which is generating solid new leads for the county.

"With more funding and added incentives for companies to move here, it will make our case for converting those leads into real jobs even more compelling."

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DECONSTRUCTION: A new timetable to take down the Dungeness A plant is set to save money and make up to 70 jobs at the site while work takes place

£12.8m grant brings end of Dungeness A (more) nigh

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

WORK on the decommissioning and demolition of Dungeness A nuclear power station will be speeded up through the award of a £12.8 million grant over the next three years.

The new timetable for the scheduled work could also create up to 70 jobs.

The south side of the site will be cleared in about three years, rather than the 15 years originally planned, providing the employment boost and reducing the overall cost of the project.

The skyline of Romney Marsh will be transformed dramatically as the 26-metre-high turbine halls are to be demolished.

David Batters, chief finance officer at the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA), made the announcement about the award during a visit to the site to see progress first-hand and take a look at the areas of the site that will be cleared as a result of the work.

He said: "We are delighted to make this funding available. The accelerated demolition work will deliver significant major savings in the long term while demonstrating visible progress in decommissioning the site."

Dungeness A site director Ray Jepps said: "This is excellent news for Dungeness A and the local area as it enables us to complete another milestone project along the site's journey towards care and maintenance and hazard-reduction.

"At its peak, the work will create an additional 70 jobs and secure employment for a number of staff at the site for the duration of the project."

Further savings are likely to be made through the sale of scrap metal and by avoiding the need for ongoing maintenance work on the ageing building, resulting in a saving of £15m over the current plan.

Magnox recently awarded a Framework Contract worth £304m for the de-planting, demolition and bulk asbestos removal across all its 10 nuclear-reactor sites in the UK.

By bringing together a number of related projects in this way, optimising the approach to decommissioning, it is expected that the UK taxpayer will save more than £1.3 billion.

The final flask of fuel was dispatched from Dungeness A for reprocessing in April this year, completing a five-year programme of defuelling that removed more than 99 per cent of the radioactive waste from the site.

Grow For It... cheque out the good it can do

HAPPY DAYS: From left, Karl Dodd, Harry Wooding and John Osborne received the money at the launch of regeneration scheme Grow For It

THE largest individual share of east Kent's £35 million from the Regional Growth Fun has been awarded.

Hythe-based HV Wooding has taken control of £1.1m in interest-free loans.

It was presented by county council leader Paul Carter at the launch of the Grow For It campaign – a project seeking to attract investment in the area.

The sub-contract manufacturing company supplies components to engineering firms, including the Mercedes Formula 1 team, nuclear researchers and renewable-energy specialists.

Formed 44 years ago, the firm employs 116 people and has an annual turnover of more than £13m.

Managing director Harry Wooding was at the east Kent regeneration-project launch, where the cheque was presented, along with colleagues Karl Dodd and John Osborne.

Wooding said: "Our industry is particularly capital-intensive and with competition coming from all points of the globe, as well as the UK, it is vital we continue to invest in the most advanced and productive equipment, so this loan opportunity is coming at exactly the right time for us as we are currently rebuilding and enlarging one of our production sites."

Osborne added: "We hope to create a further 16 jobs while safeguarding our existing workforce."

TAX

Research produces an £84,000 rebate

CHRISTMAS has come (a little) early for a direct-marketing company, which has won an £84,000 refund from the taxman.

Lloyd James Ltd, based near Dartford, manage databases, lists and mailing campaigns on behalf of blue-chip clients such as Homebase, Debenhams and ACAS.

Problems arose when it invested in some new software to improve its service to a telecoms provider that needed several million records processed a day. Instead, it found itself with a product unfit for purpose – and set about devising its own.

Chief executive officer Lloyd James was delighted with the creation; he was then doubly thrilled when HMRC sent him a cheque for £84,000 in the shape of a research-and-development tax credit.

Sidcup accountancy McBrides spotted the opportunity to apply for a research-and-development tax credit when invited to sit in on a meeting at the firm.

James said: "I wasn't even aware there were tax credits available for research and development, so that came as a pleasant surprise. However, the cheque that finally came through last month from HMRC was even more of a delight."

McBrides worked with the Lloyd James team, identifying further information that was needed for the application and then compiled it all into a tax reclaim with a detailed synopsis of the software, which was submitted to HMRC.

CONNECTIVITY

Superfast broadband to go ahead for rural areas

A SUPERFAST broadband scheme worth £9.9 million in Kent and Medway has been given the green light by the European Commission.

Work to start laying cable can now start, which will mean improved internet speeds to homes and firms in the countryside.

CONNECTED: Internet speeds are to be improved

MEP Catherine Bearder said she urged the commission to free up the money amid fears delays to the scheme were starting to damage companies.

Bearder said: "Superfast broadband is crucial to build a strong economy, where everyone has the opportunity to make a success of their business.

"This will create jobs and growth for Kent and Medway and ensure we can compete fairly with the big cities.

"It is also very important for local and national government to deliver public services effectively online and to going about our everyday lives.

"For too long, our area has missed out on investment in broadband.

"I have always been clear we must not miss out on the digital age and I will be working with the Coalition Government and our local authority to ensure we deliver superfast broadband as soon as possible."

The European Commission permission was needed because the project was partially state-aided.

Training, courses and careers

Bus scheme will fuel unemployed's hopes of work

JOBSEEKERS are going to be set to take advantage of free bus travel across the region next month as part of a push to help them secure employment.

Bus firm Stagecoach is backing a new 'Bus for Jobs' initiative to help jobseekers travel on all Stagecoach bus route during January.

Sir Brian Souter, chief executive of Stagecoach Group, said: "Bus for Jobs could make the vital difference for those who are struggling to get that first job or training place. In particular, I hope we can help more of our young people make a better start in life."

Transport minister Norman Baker said: "Good bus services play a huge role in boosting economic growth by helping people to access employment and training opportunities. I have been encouraging bus operators to look at the fare deals they can offer to young people looking for work, so I congratulate the operators that are doing so in January and look forward to seeing other offers in the future.

"This move will benefit the industry as well as jobseekers as young people are not only a key section of the market – they are the future of the local bus industry."

The scheme will be available to jobseekers who have been unemployed for between three months and one year. It is particularly targeted at young people for whom unemployment rates remain high. The scheme will cover holders of a JobCentre Plus travel discount card.

Fresh designs for college with creative course set for 2013

STUDENTS will get the chance to flex their creative muscles after a college confirmed it was set to roll out a new graphic design course.

It is hoped the course will inspire a new generation to grasp creative opportunities across a wide range of diverse industries.

MidKent College chiefs, which have campuses in both Maidstone and Medway, hope to capitalise on an increasing awarenesss of big brands cementing their image with carefully thought out and well designed campaigns with graphic design at their heart.

The opportunities are clear to see.

From web developers to fast food chains, the civil service and everywhere in between, there are few organisations in the world that would not benefit from the expertise of someone capable of bringing words and pictures to life.

And from January 2013, MidKent College's Medway campus will be the place for budding graphic designers to take their first steps into a career with what college chiefs say present endless possibilities.

Nick Sermon, teaching and learning manager for art and design at MidKent College, explained: "Graphic designers play such an important role in developing the brands and products we use on a daily basis.

"It's a big area of employment and there are so many industries that need graphic designers.

"We are confident our new course will give students the start they need to embark on a really exciting career."

The Level 2 diploma in graphic design covers a wide range of techniques and processes within the profession, including digital art, printmaking, digital photography, typography and more.

Students who enrol on the course will also be able to get their hands on the most up-to-date software and hardware to ensure the skills they learn are exactly what employers are looking for.

Mr Sermon added: "There are few professions that open as many different doors as graphic design, which is why we are confident this new course will be well received.

"We also plan to launch the next rung on the ladder, the Level 3 extended diploma in graphic design, next September, to ensure there is a clear route of progression for those enrolled on the course."

Students interested in enrolling on the Level 2 diploma in graphic design can get a sense of what the course will have to offer by attending a free taster session which takes place next week.

Anyone interested in attending the event, which runs from 10am to noon, on Tuesday, December 18, should email nick.sermon@midkent.ac.uk to confirm their place.

■ Turn to page 50 to see the latest job vacancies from across the county.

DESIGNS: Course offers creative opportunities

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International partnership sees Swedish students stay in city

VISITNG Swedish students bid farewell to Canterbury College this week at the end of a three month stay.

Nearly 40 social sciences students from Nacka Gymnasium have been studying English, history, art and drama in accordance with the Swedish national curriculum, at the college throughout the autumn term.

They made the 1,130 mile journey from their home town of Nacka, south east Sweden, in September.

Since then, they have been staying with local families and immersing themselves in Kentish life.

Natural sciences students from Nacka Gymnasium will arrive for a similar scheme in January.

Brian Jones, the college's higher education access, arts and education manager, said: "Studying here allows the young people from Nacka Gymnasium to improve their English and build their confidence.

"It's very important to them because they have an international outlook. It also means our own students can enjoy being part of a more diverse community. We are always pleased to have them."

Director of business development Mark Hill said: "It is relevant academically and socially to the Swedes and for our own students. We had particularly positive feedback when our food hall handmade and served Swedish meatballs – we got eight out of ten from some very discerning Swedish customers. It was really appreciated too."

Aprons from the classroom

GIFTS: It's all wrapped up

NORTH West Kent College fashion design students presented dementia patients at the Gravesham Place Day Centre with fidget aprons that they designed and made as part of their course.

The students researched the condition to gain an understanding of the illness before creating the product to benefit those at the centre.

Karen Fitzpatrick, fashion design lecturer at the college, said: "The students have done a great job at turning the idea of an apron into something that can be physically and mentally stimulating."

The students used bright colours that helps stimulate sensory and visual perception, including coordination. They used fabrics such as silk and velvet, while beads and buttons were added to the aprons to alleviate fidgeting and pacing; all common traits of dementia.

To find out about the course and others on offer, North West Kent College will stage an open day on March 5.

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'Resilience' in UK property market shock to the system

FIGURES for November show the lowest monthly seasonal drop in new 'For Sale' and 'Sold' properties for five years.

Data from the Agency Express Property Activity Index reflect a "surprising resilience" in the property market as UK residential properties achieving Sold status fell by 1.2 per cent, while new For Sale listings dropped 7.3 per cent between October and November.

These figures represent the lowest seasonal drop since the index was started in 2007.

Agency Express managing director Stephen Watson said: "We would normally expect to see a much greater seasonal drop in market activity, so these figures are surprisingly good news, particularly if you compare the year-on-year trends since we started monitoring the market in 2007.

"There is also supporting evidence and a further sign of an upturn in the market, with mortgage approvals hitting a 10-month high."

'No need to plaster countryside with housing... use derelict buildings first'

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

EXPERTS in the field of housing development are urging the Government to look at alternatives to building new homes on open countryside.

Housing minister Nick Boles has called for more development across the UK to cope with a reported increase in demand.

He said ministers would protect the green belt but warned that large areas of open land may have to be given over for housing.

"We're going to protect the green belt, but if people want to have housing for their kids they have got to accept we need to build more on some open land," Boles said.

"In the UK and England at the moment we've got about 9 per cent of land developed.

"All we need to do is build on another 2 to 3 per cent of land and we'll have solved a housing problem."

But regeneration group FreshStart Living says it has another idea

FreshStart Living is a property-development company that specialises in regenerating unused and derelict buildings in towns and city centres and turning them into affordable homes.

Charlie Cunningham, chief executive, said: "There is enough brownfield land to create one million affordable homes – not to mention the thousands of unused buildings and stalled projects on developers' books and belonging to local authorities – yet the focus is already turning towards developing on new land.

"There are thousands of unused buildings in town and city centres which can be quickly turned into affordable residential apartments which would go a long way in solving the current housing crisis. Nick Boles should turn his attention to these buildings first."

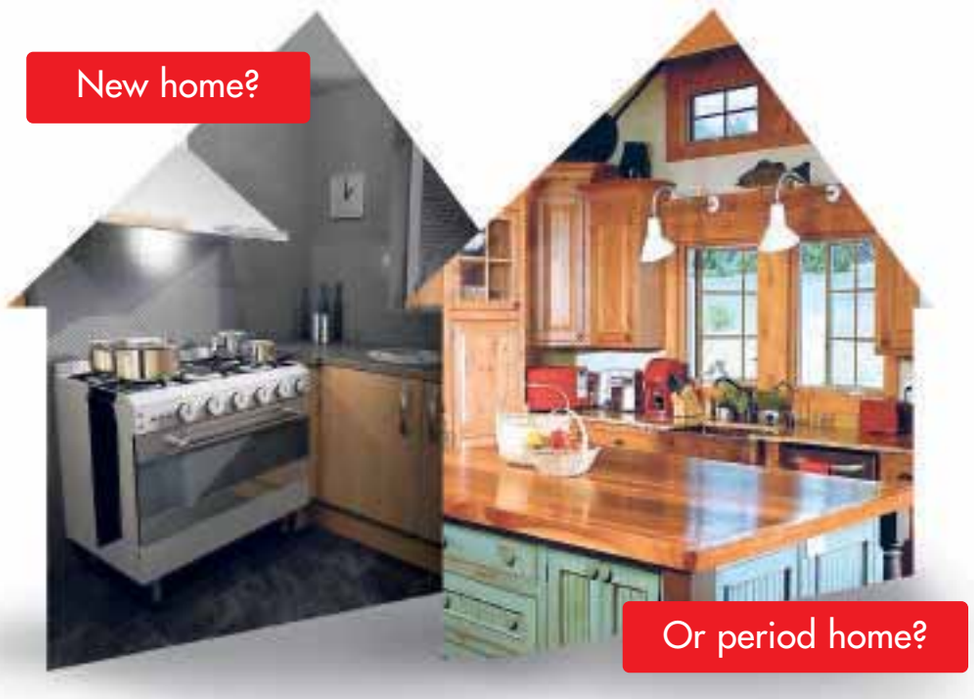
Boarded Up Britain is a website founded to document derelict buildings across Britain.

The site allows users to upload photos and details about buildings and also comment on what should be done about them.

Matthew Dyas, founder of the campaign, said: "Mr Boles's argument that the built environment can be more beautiful than nature is divisive, but what can't be denied is the boarded-up, unused and unloved buildings in town and city centres aren't pretty and in many cases are blights on communities.

"People walk past these buildings every day, but we need to stop turning a blind eye and do something about them."

FRESH PASTURES: Nick Boles, minister for housing, has called for more development on some of the country's open land



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Driving

carsforkent.co.uk

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

New heights for Toyota's Verso

IF YOU must run a mid-size seven-seat people-carrier, then the Toyota Verso has been a smart choice for some time.

But that buying decision is even more of a no-brainer now that Japan's top car brand has made it look, well, interesting – a factor that usually eludes MPVs.

Toyota is having a shake-up anyway, with less navel-gazing about hybrids and more image-making with real-world cars better able to ward off those pushy Korean rivals Kia and Hyundai.

I've already raved about the stunning and inexpensive GT86 sports car, while the new Auris no longer looks like a sloppily-disguised successor to the worthy but dull Corolla.

And while the latest Verso is actually no more than a facelift of the car launched in 2009, it also shows evidence of the turnabout at Toyota.

In essence, it's the same well-made, reliable and highly-practical model that people know and love, but there's verve about the styling, largely thanks to the new corporate nose pioneered on the new Auris.

To be fair, it's hard to make a sexy car from something designed to cram in seven and seat them high, but the Verso now looks sleeker and lower without losing its established practicality.

Priced from a competitive £17,495, it arrives next month in a much-simplified eight-model/three-grade range – Active, Icon and Excel – another sign of clearer thinking at Toyota.

Middleweight Icon models are expected to top sales and these come well equipped with digital radio, cruise-control, rear privacy glass and retractable door-mirrors, but even the budget Active comes with front fogs, air-con, electric front windows and Hill-Start Assist Control.

Curiously, this slimline range includes a five-seat model, possibly to allow that attractive entry price, but it's best avoided as five-seater versions of predominantly seven-seat cars usually take a hammering at resale time. Besides, there's little to dislike about Toyota's fast-action Easy Flat folding system on the seven-seat version.

Toyota has worked hard to upgrade the interior. It was workmanlike and durable, but new trim materials, upholstery designs and other tweaks have worked some magic.

There wasn't much wrong with the powertrain options, though. As a big Verso selling point, these carry over with only slight adjustment to the 2.0 D-4D diesel, which now delivers extra low-down pulling power, quieter running and 10g/km fewer CO_2 emissions to take it below 130g/km.

I haven't driven it yet, but, as Toyota isn't trumpeting any dynamic changes, assume it remains one of the most balanced driving experiences in the MPV arena.

It's wrong to expect cars of this class to put a smile on your face, but the Verso at least keeps worry lines away, while refinement can only be better with that sleek new front end.

TOYOTA VERSO

Price:	£17,495
Driving appeal:	Not driven yet
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Best rival:	Vauxhall Zafira

POWER TO THE PEOPLE-CARRIER: Toyota has made some subtle changes to its already-impressive seven-seat mini-MPV Verso that have improved the look of a car that now comes in an eight-model/three-grade range but still retains its practicality

DON'T LIKE

... the stodgy image and handling of MPVs as a rule, but the Verso has become even more the midi-size seven-seater you can live with.

NOT SURE

... it will contribute much to Toyota's apparent bid to brush up its image, but, as a big-name brand in another arena might say, every little helps.

REALLY LIKE

... the dramatic effect the new Verso nose and other styling tweaks have made to the look of what it still a relatively high-sided vehicle.

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01304 827 500 www.perrys.co.uk/dover-chevrolet

Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Chevrolet Spark Range: Urban 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 55.4 (5.1) CO2 emissions 119g/km. Finance subject to status. Cars shown for illustration purposes only. Terms & Conditions Apply. Ask for details.

MOTORING

Visit **carsforkent.co.uk**

Could Vauxhall's new Mokka become your cuppa coffee?

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

VAUXHALL'S new Mokka crossover-cum-SUV takes its name from a variety of coffee bean.

It may also show that General Motors (GM) and its German-based Opel sister have finally awoken and smelt the coffee; these twin brands now produce some classy products, including the stylish Insignia – European Car Of The Year 2009 – handsome three-door Astra GTC; soon-to-arrive Adam city car; and elegant Cascada convertible due in a few months.

Car of the moment, though, is the Mokka, a long-awaited true replacement for the Frontera, with which Vauxhall made hay during the 90s.

What the Frontera lacked in sophistication, it countered with rugged style and price, but it had been outclassed by the time the axe fell in 2003.

It was 2007 before Vauxhall followed up with the Antara, but this was pitched upmarket and has never had the Frontera's price appeal.

And Nissan had rethought the 4x4/SUV deal with the Qashqai, creating the new crossover-car segment.

Belatedly, Vauxhall has now responded with the Mokka, a car to tackle the Qashqai set as well as a smaller crossover niche that Nissan has tried to prise open with its Juke model.

The Mokka's muscular, compact body has short overhangs but lots of height, so the cabin never feels cramped, although it struggles to seat three in comfort across the back.

It's also well-specc'd and aggressively priced from £15,995, and that entry price doesn't buy an asthmatic poverty spec offered simply to build showroom traffic; it's actually the lead-in to Tech Line trim aimed at tax-conscious company-car user-choosers though still available to private buyers.

And there's the essence of the Mokka: it's a crowd-pleaser.

OK, the marketeers talk about the Mokka's appeal to those with active lifestyles who want 4x4 and maybe the brand's retractable bumper-mounted FlexFix bike-carrier.

But many more buyers will happily pilot this nimble car around town rather than yomping across the countryside, which 4x4 Mokka versions can do up to a point, aided by a hill-descent control feature.

So, more than half of Mokka-buyers are expected to opt for front-wheel-drive versions and the greater economy.

Still with running costs in mind, Vauxhall has forecast that 42 per cent of buyers will opt for the 1.7CDTi diesel, with an official combined cycle 62.8mpg in front-wheel-drive format.

The balance will be petrol: a 1.4-litre turbocharged (20 per cent) and 1.6-litre (38 per cent). After test-driving the former, though, I wouldn't bet against it selling more than its share.

It's available only as a 4x4, but there aren't many light, practical and sporty yet frugal small 4x4s – the official combined cycle consumption figure is 44.1mpg.

The turbo gives low-down urge and that complements a taut chassis that Vauxhall tuned specifically for the UK, evident in the fluid nature with which the car tackles a challenging road.

There's also a surprisingly good feel to the power-steering.

Unfortunately, Vauxhall seemingly couldn't eliminate a degree of leaning on the bends without harming the car's decent ride, but it's the Mokka's tiny weakness in the driving department.

Vauxhall has created some great interiors lately, but the Mokka doesn't further the brand's ambitions; there are no obvious examples of Vauxhall's thoughtful and versatile 'Flex' packaging features and the optimistically-named mid-range Exclusiv trim of the test car is drab.

However, occupants enjoy a high perch and good views out, while everything feels sturdy and works well, and access front and back is impressive.

So, Vauxhall appears to have brewed a wake-up call for the Qashqai and Co.

VAUXHALL MOKKA 1.4T EXCLUSIV 4X4: PRICE £20,200

SOMETHING BREWING: Vauxhall's new Mokka should make an impact on Nissan's dominance of the crossover sector – a 4x4/SUV that is just as nimble about town as it is off-road

FACT FILE

Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Road tax:	£135/year
Best rival:	Skoda Yeti

Kent dealers:

Perrys	
Canterbury	01227 710333
Whitfield, Dover	01304 827500
Broadstairs	01843 600777
FG Barnes	
Maidstone	01622 755531
Caffyns	
Ashford	01233 504604
Pomphreys	
Sittingbourne	01795 476222
Hidsons	
Rainham	01634 376526
SLM	
Tunbridge Wells	01892 597629

First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS

A fourth to be reckoned with

DIVERGENCE between recent generations of the BMW 3-Series saloon and its two-door sister is recognised by this preview of the new 4-Series, a stand-alone coupé and convertible 3-Series spin-off expected in 2013.

The German premium marque says it wants the newcomer to have its own aesthetic, sporting and dynamic identity – this racy concept certainly looks the part.

Stalwart 4x4 given facelift

ONE of the best-buy 4x4s on the market has had a facelift and arrives in Suzuki showrooms this month.

The Grand Vitara remains a fresh-looking and capable off-roader at a bargain price (from £15,995), but the Japanese marque has tweaked the three-/five-door range visually inside and out and boosted the diesel powertrain for what may be a tough winter for UK drivers.

Van victories for Vauxhall

VAUXHALL was top van brand at the 2013 What Van? Awards, though Ford's Transit Custom took Van Of The Year overall.

Vauxhall accolades were: Best Small Van – the Corsavan (pictured); Best Light Van – the Cargo and its Fiat Doblo clone sister; Best Innovation – Ecoflex technology; and Highly Commended Large Van – the Movano and its Nissan and Renault sister models.

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Official fuel consumption for the SEAT Mii SE 1.0 in mpg (litres per 100km; urbvan 50.4 (5.6); extra-urban 72.4 (3.9); combined 62.8 (4.5). CO_2 emmissions 105g/km

†Free servicing is available to customers who purchase their car with Solutions. Up to 3 years or 30,000 miles (whichever comes sooner). ^ 8.9% APR representative is available on Solutions across the Mii range. *Offer applies to SEAT Mii 3DR 1.0 only on orders, between 15th October and 31st October and 31st December 2012. Retail sales only. Subject to availability. A £167 initial rental contribution is only payable to customers who purchase their car with ersonal contract hire. All rentals and changes are quoted inclusive of VAT. A 4.4p per mile excess mileage charge applies if the annnual contract mileage of 5,000 miles is exceeded. The quotation is given subject to the vehicle being servied and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer guidelines. Further charges may be payable when the vehicle is returned. Indemnities may be required. Subject to status. available to over 18's in the UK from particpating dealers only. excludes the ChannelIslands. Personal contract hire provided by SEAT Finance, Freeost SEAT Finance. Model shown is SEAT Mii SE 1.0 60ps. **Free SEAT Portable System available onorders place before 31st December 2012. Offer may be withdrawn at any time

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The Westagte, Canterbury. Tel 01227 864455
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Approved Used

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Representative example

based on a C220 CDI Sport Saloon registered on 09/2011 with 10,000 miles

36 monthly payments of (Term of agreement)	£399.00*
Customer deposit	£957.00
Cash price	£23,490.00
Retailer deposit contribution	£1,000.00
Total deposit	£1,957.00
Duration of agreement	36 months
Optional purchase payment**	£11,700.00
Amount of credit	£21,533.00
Total amount payable***	£28,296.00
Acceptance fee	£180.00
Purchase activation fee	£95.00
Representative APR	9.9%
Fixed interest rate	8.90%

During December, there's an attractive offer on selected[1] Approved Used C-Class Saloon and Estate models.

- £1000 towards your deposit with the Agility Finance package and 9.9% APR Representative*.
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And every model comes with an Approved Used Mercedes-Benz genuine vehicle check, 12 months unlimited mileage warranty and roadside assistance.

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Mercedes-Benz

Mercedes-Benz of Canterbury Broad Oak Road, Canterbury, CT2 7PX **0844 539 8312** www.mercedes-benzofcanterbury.co.uk

Official government fuel consumption figures in mpg (litres per 100km) for the C-Class Saloon range: urban 15.5(18.2)-50.4(5.6), extra urban 33.6(8.4)-76.3(3.7), combined 23.5(12.0)-64.2(4.4). CO_2 emissions: 280-117 g/km.

Whilst this offer is only available through Mercedes-Benz Finance, we do arrange finance on behalf of other finance companies as well. Model featured in the image is a C 180 BlueEFFICIENCY Sport Saloon. [1]C-Class Saloon or Estate models registered on or after 1st September 2009 and which are over 90 days old from date of first registration. Finance offer based on a Mercedes-Benz Agility agreement, on 10,000 miles per annum. **Payable if you exercise the option to purchase the car. ***Includes optional purchase payment, purchase activation fee and Retailer deposit contribution. £1000 finance deposit contribution available upon financing with Mercedes-Benz Finance only. *9.9% APR Representative based on a balance financed of £21,533 and a fixed rate of 8.90% on a 36 month Mercedes-Benz Agility agreement. Alternative contract lengths available. Offer available on all used C-Class Saloon and Estate models registered after 1st September 2009, credit approved before 20th December 2012 and activated before 31st December 2012. Credit provided subject to status from Mercedes-Benz Financial Services UK Ltd. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Offer subject to availability and cannot be used in conjunction with any other published Retailer offers. Prices correct at time of going to press (16/12).

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Tel: 01843 606 314
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SPARK

AVEO

ORLANDO

CORVETTE

CAMARO

Vehicles shown for illustration purposes only. Not available in conjunction with any other offers. Models shown in the thumbnails are not all UK specification and therefore not currently available in the UK. Vehicles currently available in the UK are Aveo, Spark, Cruze, Orlando and Captiva. For more information visit www.chevrolet.co.uk. Prices correct at time of press. Calls may be recorded and monitored for training purposes.

Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Chevrolet Range: Urban - 13.1 (21.6) - 313.9 (0.9), Extra Urban - 26.2 (10.8) - 217.6 (1.3), Combined - 19.5 (14.5) - 235.4 (1.2), CO2 emissions 342g/km - 27g/km.

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The official fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km) for the 208 range are: Urban 34.9 – 78.4 (8.1 – 3.6), Extra Urban 62.8 – 88.2 (4.5 – 3.2), Combined 48.7 – 83.0 (5.8 – 3.4) and CO_2 135 – 87.

#Terms and conditions apply, participating dealers only or visit www.peugeot.co.uk.
*The first year Road Fund Licence (RFL) is included in the on the road price. The Dealer will provide customers with a cheque equivalent to twice the current RFL cost. The customer must apply for years 2 & 3 RFL.
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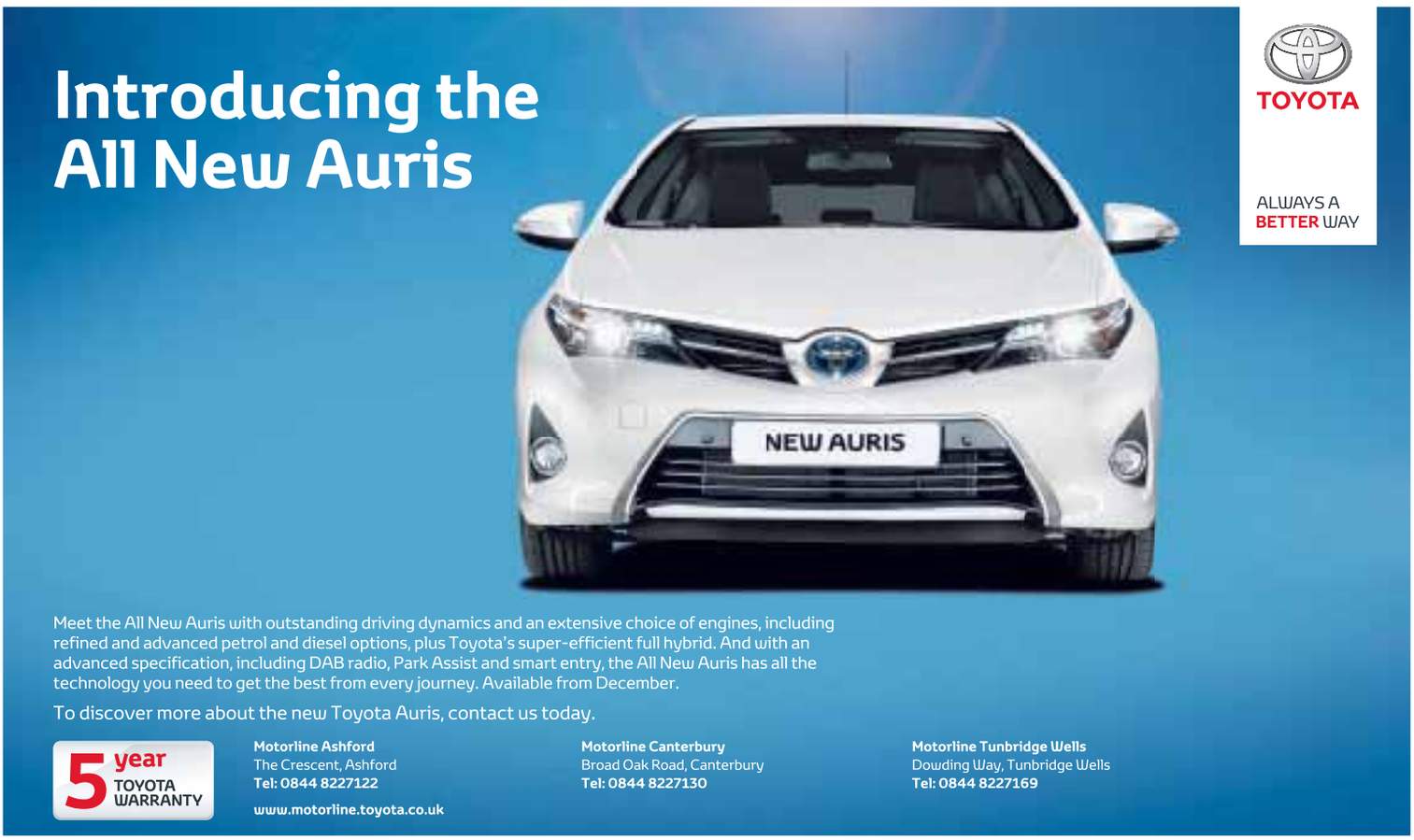

All new Auris 1.8 Hybrid. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 71.4 (3.9), Extra Urban 71.4 (3.9), Combined 71.4 (3.9). CO_2 emissions 91g/km.5 year 100,000 mile manufacturer warranty subject to terms and conditions.

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Candidates will need to have 2 years experience in a senior position and hold an NVQ level 3 or be working towards it. You must be organised, efficient, forward-thinking, a good delegator and have excellent communication skills.

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Duties will include general cleaning of the property from 9am - 2pm.

For further details regarding either vacancy please telephone between 10am - 4pm on 01795 532629.

Cumbria House Care Home

Cumbria House is currently looking for an experienced **Senior Care Assistant** and **Care Assistants** to work with in their Folkestone based care home.

Applicants for both vacancies must have experience in elderly care and those applying for the Senior Care role must be in possession of NVQ Level 3 in Health & Social Care.

Posts are subject to CRB Disclosure, cost to be met by applicant.

For further information on either of the vacancies, please contact Julia on **01303 254019**.

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Please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk for an application pack.
Closing date: Friday 4th January 2013

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- To lead on the management of casework, including disciplinary, grievance and attendance management cases
- To design and deliver development workshops in areas of HR best practice, including recruitment & selection, absence management, disciplinary and grievance workshops

The successful candidate will hold a CIPD qualifications or be willing to work towards the qualification within a specified timeframe and will have proven experience within a similar role.
Midkent College
Please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk for an application pack.
Closing Date: Friday 4th January 2013

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PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES

Public Notice
Licensing Act 2003

Mr Shane Jarvis has made an application in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003 for a premises licence for Waterside Bistro, Prospect Place, Blake Avenue, Gillingham, Kent ME7 1FX. The application is for the Sale of Alcohol (Monday to Sunday 11am – 22:30), and Regulated Entertainment (Monday to Sunday 11am – 22:30).
This application has been made to Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham Kent, ME4 4TR. Full details of the application and plans can be viewed at Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham Kent, ME4 4TR during normal hours of business.
Any interested party who wishes to make a representation about this application should do so in writing to Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham Kent, ME4 4TR or by sending an email to licensing@medway.gov.uk no later than January 12, 2013.
It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application which, upon conviction, carries a maximum fine of £5,000.

To advertise in this section
01303 817150

PLANNING

NOTICE OF INTENDED LAND DISPOSAL
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
SECTION 123 (2A)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council intends to dispose of the freehold interest in four areas of land, which are for identification purposes described in the schedule to this notice.

This notice is given in so far as each area of land consists of or forms part of an open space within the meaning of the above Section.

A plan of each area of land is available to view at the Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2AB or at the Weald Information Centre, The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook TN17 3HF.

Objections to any of the proposed disposals must be made in writing to the Legal Services Manager, Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1RS by no later than 16 December 2012.

SCHEDULE

Land at rear of Humphreys, Petteridge Lane, Matfield TN12 7LT (approximately 4451 square metres)

Land at rear of Station Cottages, Hartley, Cranbrook, TN17 2SS (approximately 1620 square metres)

Land at The Grove, Pembury TN2 4BU (approximately 10117 square metres)

Land between 7 & 9 Blackthorn Avenue, Tunbridge Wells TN4 9YA (approximately 764 square metres)

Paul Cummins
Legal Services Manager

Dated Friday 7 December 2012

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PLANNING

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13

KCC/AS/0383/2012 - Proposed development at Kennington C of E Junior School, Upper Vicarage Road, Kennington, Ashford, Kent, TN24 9AG

The Governors of Kennington C of E Junior School are applying to the Kent County Council for planning permission to construct small (5.6x4.8m) sports equipment extension off the main hall. Traditionally constructed to match the year 2000 built hall.

The proposed development is within the Kennington Conservation Area and may affect its character and/or appearance.

You may view this application via a computer link at the following locations: (a) Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford; and (b) Tenterden Gateway, 2 Manor Row, High Street, Tenterden.

SW/05/744/R5A - Proposed development at Norwood Quarry and Landfill Site, Lower Road, Minster-on-Sea, Isle of Sheppey, Kent, ME12 3AJ

FCC Environment (UK) Ltd is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for Amendments to approved working programme to provide: (i) Additional clay storage in 'Northern Valley' area of site; and (ii) Bank stabilisation within the site.

KCC/SW/0418/2012 - Proposed development at Land north of Norwood Quarry and Landfill Site, Lower Road, Minster-on-Sea, Isle of Sheppey, Kent, ME12 3AJ

FCC Environment (UK) Ltd is applying to the Kent County Council for planning permission for Storage of clay on land to north of existing Norwood Quarry and Landfill Site for duration of workings.

KCC/SW/0420/2012 - Proposed development at Norwood Quarry and Landfill Site, Lower Road, Minster-on-Sea, Isle of Sheppey, Kent, ME12 3AJ

FCC Environment (UK) Ltd is applying to the Kent County Council for planning permission for Re-grading of eastern screen bank including extension onto adjoining land. The proposed development also affects a public right of way.

You may view these applications at Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX by **14 January 2013**. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the Borough Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 16 December 2012

Kent County Council

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Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
4. The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 31 DECEMBER 2012

SW/12/1472:

Retrospective application for the change of use of land for the stationing of two mobile homes for use by a gypsy family with associated utility room, 4 vehicle parking spaces and hardstanding - Hedgerows, Holywell Lane, UPCHURCH; **REASONS 3 & 4**

SW/12/1473:

Listed Building Consent to erect a satellite dish on the rear of the house (Retrospective) - 1 Olde Houses, Chestnut Street, BORDEN; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/1477:

Change of use to revert back to residential premises, has been used for an office for past 13 years - 34 East Street, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

Folkestone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY, VARIOUS ROADS) (PROVISION OF ON-STREET DISABLED PERSON'S PARKING PLACES) CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2012 (14 STATION ROAD, LYMINGE AMENDMENT)

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes the above Order under Sections 1, 2, 32 and 124 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order proposes the following: -

To relocate the disabled persons' parking place outside number 14 Station Road, Lyminge to partially in front of the neighbouring property number 10-12 Station Road, Lyminge.

A copy of the proposed Order, a copy of any Orders which may be amended by it, and a statement of the council's reasons for proposing it can be inspected during normal office hours at the Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY, during normal office hours.

If you have any views about the proposed Order you should make them in writing to (DPPB Consultation), Parking Services, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY. Or email DPPB.Consultation@shepway.gov.uk stating "Consolidation Order" in the subject title.

We must receive any representations before 5pm on Monday 7th January 2013 for them to be considered. For legal reasons we cannot accept representations over the phone or in person.

If you have any questions concerning the proposed Order or require further information please contact Shepway District Council (Transportation Department), Council Offices, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY (01303 853240 during normal office hours).

This notice is published by Shepway District Council on behalf of Kent Highway Services, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XX. Kent Highway Services is part of Kent County Council.

Folkestone

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y12/1046/SH - 82 Sandgate High Street Sandgate Folkestone Kent CT20 3BX - Change of use and conversion of upper floors to a self contained residential unit together with external alterations to the building.

Y12/1085/SH - Sea Lady Vicarage Road Sandgate Kent CT20 3AA - Change of use and conversion from two to three self-contained flats together with works to create a larger parking area following demolition of the existing garage and other external alterations.

Y12/1086/SH - Sea Lady Vicarage Road Sandgate Kent CT20 3AA - Listed building consent for internal and external alterations in connection with the conversion from two to three flats.

Y12/1072/SH - Flat 1 9 Grimston Avenue Folkestone Kent CT20 2QE - Erection of a rear extension following removal of existing conservatory together with other external alterations.

Y12/1062/SH - Land adjacent 47 Links Way Linksway Folkestone Kent - Erection of a non-food retail warehouse unit (2654 square metres gross internal floor area including first and mezzanine floors) and provision of associated accesses, parking, service yard, landscaping and associated works.

Y12/1101/SH - Roman House Canterbury Road Etchinghill Folkestone Kent - Erection of a two storey side and front extension.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

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MA/12/1874/N - MAIDSTONE POLICE STATION, PALACE AVENUE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6NF - Rearrangement of wheelchair access ramp to front elevation. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/1885/N - 53, EYHORNE STREET, HOLLINGBOURNE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1TS - Variation of condition 4 of Planning Permission MA/11/1494 (Erection of a single storey side extension, a two storey rear extension and changes to fenestration (revised scheme to MA/11/0536) as shown on drawing no.s DHA/7988/01-07 received on 01/09/11.0. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/1949/S - KENT COTTAGE AND CHANCE HOLDING, GRIGG LANE, HEADCORN, KENT, TN27 9TD - Outline planning application with access, layout, scale and appearance to be determined and with landscaping as a reserved matter, for the demolition of buildings at Kent Cottage and Chance Holding to enable the construction of residential development (for a maximum of 29 dwellings inclusive of 8 affordable dwellings) inclusive of retained woodland as open amenity land, enhanced landscaping including new pond, electricity sub station, foul drainage pumping station with access road off Grigg Lane. **Reason: 6, 7, 9**

MA/12/1991/S - KNOWLE HILL GAME FARM, KNOWLE HILL, ULCOMBE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1ES - Change of use of land for the erection of two Holiday Log Cabins. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/1992/N - WICKHAM HOUSE, 15, THE SQUARE, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2PQ - Erection of conservatory. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/1993/N - WICKHAM HOUSE, 15, THE SQUARE, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2PQ - Listed building consent for the erection of conservatory. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/1997/N - WESTLEA HOUSE, OLD HAM LANE, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2LT - Conversion of existing integral garage and utility room into larger kitchen/utility area with replacement windows. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/1998/N - WESTLEA HOUSE, OLD HAM LANE, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2LT - Listed building consent for the replacement of the garage doors with windows to facilitate the conversion of existing integral garage/utility area into larger kitchen/utility area. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/2028/S - UPPER CRISBROOK MILL, HAYLE MILL ROAD, TOVIL, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6XR - Listed building consent for the demolition of part of detached garage and erection of extension to remaining garage to include garden store and associated works including parking area, paths and changes to land levels. **Reason: 4**

MA/12/2032/N - KCC SPRINGFIELD LIBRARY HQ, SANDLING ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT - An application for a new planning permission to replace extant permission MA/09/0862 (Outline Planning Application for the erection of residential development comprising of 100 flats and 14 houses with all matters reserved for future consideration as shown on drawing nos. PA-GND-SPR-AST-RES-GA-01-A, PA-L01-SPR-AST-RES-GA-01-A, PA-L02-SPR-AST-RES-GA-01-A, PA-SL-SPR-AST-RES-MAS-01-A, PA-SL-SPR-AST-RES-ELV-01-A, planning statement, design & access statement, validation checklist, phase 1 contamination study, transport assessment, daylight and sunlight study, visual impact assessment, ecological scoping survey, noise assessment, air quality assessment and amenity tree survey received 21/05/2009 and as amended by arboricultural method statement and draft travel plan received 11/08/2009) in order to extend the time limit for implementation. **Reason: 1, 6**

MA/12/2040/N - LEDIAN FARM, UPPER STREET, LEEDS, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1RZ - An application for conservation area consent for partial demolition of existing boundary wall to Upper Street to create pedestrian and vehicular access to new Continuing Care Retirement Community development. **Reason: 4**

Reasons for advertisement key:

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

12/03311/FUL **Springhill Farm Standen Street, Benenden**
- Installation of new package sewage treatment plant to replace existing septic tank (LB)

12/03030/FUL **Everndens Stone Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Change of use from A1 shop to A3 cafe (LB)(CA)

12/03136/LBC **27 Church Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden**
- Listed Building Consent - Extension of lower ground floor terrace to include spiral staircase; Installation of a shower room and partition alterations to the attic rooms; Secondary glazing to windows; Installation of bathroom to second floor at rear; replacement of inner lobby screen; repositioning of fireplace (LB)

12/03272/FUL **First Floor Office 2 Grove Hill Road, Park**
- Change of use of first floor office to 2 bed residential unit (CA)

12/03274/OUT **Land Between Rookley Close And Forest Road, Park**
- Outline (All matters reserved) Two detached dwellings with detached garages and associated access and parking. Area of retained and managed woodland (DEVPLN)

12/03294/FUL **British Broadcasting Corporation Great Hall Arcade, Park**
- Cycle shelter with racks for ten cycles (CA)

12/03358/FUL **4 Grove Hill Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park**
- Aluminium shopfront (retrospective) (CA)

12/03365/LBC **17 Calverley Park Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park**
- Listed Building Consent - Replacement of existing gates with electronically automated gates (LB)

12/03293/FULMJ **Sparshatts Of Kent Ltd Longfield Road, Sherwood**
- Change of use to B2 and B8 with ancillary trade counter and including following uses: storage distribution and sale of tiles, floor coverings bathroom and kitchen furniture and other building materials. Machinery tool and plant hire. Autocentre and plumbers and builders merchant (MAJOR)

12/03219/HOUSE **Lampington Cottage The Green, Speldhurst**
- Replacement of existing gates and boundary fencing in the rear garden (LB) (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

James Freeman
Head of Planning Services, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 15 December 2012

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

To advertise in this section 01303 817056

PLANNING

HIGHWAYS – in the city of

CANTERBURY

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, CITY OF CANTERBURY) (PROHIBITION OF STOPPING ON FOOTWAY OR VERGE) (CONSOLIDATION) ORDER 2013

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and 4(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The order was made on 14 December 2012 and comes into force on 14 January 2013.

The effect of the Order will be to consolidate into one document the provisions of the Kent County Council (Various Roads, City of Canterbury) (Prohibition of Stopping on Footway or Verge) Order 2010 and all subsequent amendments thereto. This is an administrative matter which will make no changes to existing parking and waiting restrictions, and will require no changes to existing parking lines or signs.

Full details are contained in the made Order which, together with a statement of the council's reasons for making the order, may be examined at the Canterbury City Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury, CT1 1YW during normal office hours.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within six weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

This Notice is published on behalf of
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone ME14 1XX

Kent Highway Services

Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//12/01554/FUL: 89 Sydenham Street, Whitstable, CT5 1HL Retrospective permission for replacement of first floor window at front of house. **Applicant: Ms S Frankland** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/02045/FUL: The Old Rectory Stables, Rectory Lane, Barham, CT4 6PE Single-storey extension with basement storage to a proposed dwelling previously permitted under CA/12/01423/FUL. **Applicant: Mr Richard Brown** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//12/02123/FUL: 4 The Grove, Barham, CT4 6PP Single-storey side extension to dwelling. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs K Ayerst** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/02127/FUL: 16 Reculver Road, Herne Bay, CT6 6LE Extension to detached laundry/kitchen store. **Applicant: Mrs Cliffe** Reason: Site Notice only.
CA//12/02132/FUL: The Pier, Central Parade, Herne Bay Erection of mini golf course including building(s) and associated works. **Applicant: Cains Amusements Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/02137/FUL: 20 Beltinge Road, Herne Bay, CT6 7DB Wooden log cabin. **Applicant: Miss J Hogbin** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/02141/FUL: The Old Manor, Cockering Road, Thanington, CT1 3UR Installation of solar panels in the rear garden. **Applicant: Mr R Murray** Reason: Affects the setting of a listed building.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to **development.management@canterbury.gov.uk** to arrive on or before **Monday 14 January 2013.**

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 14 December 2012

MARRIAGE LICENCES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Kings Hall, Beacon Hill, Herne Bay**

Applicant: **Donna Steers**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Cath Anley
Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
Kent History and Library Centre
James Whatman Way
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Candy Carriers Ltd of Unit 2 Sheet Glass Road, Queen Borough, Kent ME11 5AP is applying for a license to use Unit 2 Sheet Glass Road, Queen Borough, Kent ME11 5AP as an operating centre for 5 goods vehicles and 0 trailers, and to use Norbert Dentressangle, Sir Thomas Longley Road, Medway City Estate, Rochester, Kent ME2 4SQ as an operating centre for 5 goods vehicles and 0 trailers

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide To Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

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PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE AREA OF CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY CB351 IN THE PARISH OF LOWER HARDRES

PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY CB351 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14 (1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Bridleway CB351 between it's junction with Public Footpath CB307 and Public Bridleway CB352 (NGR TR 162 537) and Bridge Road from the 6th December 2012

The route will be closed for a maximum of six months.

The route is to be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via CB307, CB309 and Bridge Road.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Louise Adams

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF DOVER

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH EE345B IN THE PARISH OF EYTHORNE

PUBLIC FOOTPATH EE345B (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION14 (1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Footpath EE345B between Shepherdswell Road and the junction with Public Footpath EE344 (NGR TR 280 493) from the 10th December 2012.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 24th December 2012.

The path will be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Denise Roffey

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF SEVENOAKS

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH SR338A IN THE PARISH OF WESTERHAM

PUBLIC FOOTPATH SR338A (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath SR338A, between Croydon Road and the stile at the boundary with Surrey from the 31st December 2012

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that an extension will be applied for and it will not re-open for two years.

The path is to be closed because a temporary compound for a batch concrete plant and recycling associated with the M25 are planned on it and there is a likelihood of danger to users

The alternative route is north, along the inside of the field hedge bordering Croydon Road, to the southern boundary of Old Gaysham Cottages then west along the southern side of the field boundary to the stile at the border with Surrey and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Mrs N Biddall

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF THANET

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR THE FORMER EXCLUDED AREA OF RAMSGATE

On the 26th day of November 2012 that part of the Former Excluded Area of Ramsgate - Order No.4 previously severed by the County Council, was confirmed with modification by an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State. The effect of the severed part of the Order as confirmed, with modification, is to modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the former Excluded Area of Ramsgate by adding a public footpath numbered TRX20 with a width of 2 metres which commences adjacent to property number 10 Dumpton Park Drive and runs for 65 metres in a south easterly direction, then turning northeastwards for a further 130 metres to connect with Winterstoke Way between properties numbered 14 and 16. The effect of the Inspector's modification is to exclude the section of Public Footpath TRX20 previously shown as extending to Frances Gardens from the Order.

As shown on the modified Map attached to the Order.

A copy of the confirmed Order and Order Map as modified may be seen free of charge in the Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX, and at the Offices of the Thanet District Council, Cecil Square, Margate during normal office hours. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

This Order becomes operative from the 26th November 2012 but if a person aggrieved by the Order desires to question the validity thereof or of any provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of Section 53(3)(b) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, or that any of the requirements of Schedule 15 to the Act have not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the Order, he may under Paragraph 12 of Schedule 15 to the Act within 42 days from the 16th December 2012 make application for the purpose to the High Court.

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX **Dated: 16th December 2012**

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact Kent Countryside Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council

Do not gamble on people seeing your public notices, call the Kent Public Notice team on

01303 817506

HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - ASHFORD AREA

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD)
(20MPH, 30MPH, 40MPH, 50MPH SPEED LIMITS AND DERESTRICTED ROADS)
AMENDMENT NO. 1 CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2012

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council has made an Order under Sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which is to :-

(1) install a 40mph speed limit on Smallhythe Road and Peening Quarter Road, Smallhythe (2) extend the 40mph speed limit on Faversham Road, Charing to Stalisfield Road, Charing and (3) extend the 40mph limit on Bethersden Road, Shadoxhurst to Cherry Garden Farm.

A copy of the proposed Order, which comes into operation on 17/12/2012, together with an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of roads concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of the Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent TN24 8AD.

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Orders or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or any instrument made thereunder, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Orders..

HIGHWAYS - MAIDSTONE AREA

BELTRING LEVEL CROSSING, GRAVELLY WAYS, YALDING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to inspect and re-rail the crossing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Beltring Level Crossing, Gravelly Ways, Yalding, on or after 5 January 2013 for up to 2 nights or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the level crossing.

The alternative route is via Lees Road, B2162 Hampstead Lane, B2015 Maidstone Road, A228 Boyle Way/Branbridges Road, Beltring Road.

(BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE)
(SCHOOL KEEP CLEAR)
ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

The Kent County Council, acting as the local traffic authority and in exercise of their powers under sections 1(1), 2 (1) to 3, 3 (2), 4 (1) and (2) 32 (1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, hereby makes the following Order:

A. The Kent County Council (Borough of Maidstone) (School Keep Clear) Order 2012 shall have effect in Schedules 1 and 2 as though -

SCHEDULE 1

PROHIBITION OF STOPPING ON SCHOOL KEEP CLEAR MARKINGS MONDAY TO FRIDAY BETWEEN 8:30AM AND 15:30PM

Church Hill	Western side - Across the frontage of the Boughton Monchelsea Primary School	That length of Church Hill which extends from the existing double yellow line restriction located 14 metres south of its junction with B2163 Heath Road for a distance of 43 metres in a southerly direction.

SCHEDULE 2

PROHIBITION OF STOPPING ON SCHOOL KEEP CLEAR MARKINGS MONDAY TO FRIDAY BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 9:00AM OR BETWEEN 15:00PM AND 16:00PM

Vinters Road	Northern side - Eastborough Primary School	Those lengths that extend across the north western and south eastern entrances to the Eastborough Primary School for a distance a 26 metres.

A copy of the Order which comes into operation 24th December 2012, a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order, a map indicating the location and the effect and a copy of any other Orders which will be amended by the Order may be examined on Mondays to Friday at the offices of The Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone and the Maidstone Borough Council offices, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent, during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

HIGHWAYS - SHEPWAY AREA

NORTH ELHAM HILL, ELHAM
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow Openreach to have safe access to telegraph poles and overhead cables for essential works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on North Elham Hill, Elham, on or after 3 January 2013 for up to 3 days, between 09:30 hrs and 15:30 hrs.

The road will be closed between the junctions with the un-named road to Bunkers Hill and Green Lane.

The alternative route is via High Street, New Road, Vicarage Lane, Lickpot Hill and Standard Hill Top.

HIGHWAYS - SWALE AREA

DAVINGTON HILL, FAVERSHAM
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Davington Hill, Faversham, on or after 2 January 2013 for up to 6 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Dark Hill / West Street and Brent Hill.

The alternative route is via Dark Hill, Priory Road and Davington Road.

HIGHWAYS - TUNBRIDGE WELLS AREA

GIBBET LANE, HORSMONDEN
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of highway improvement works for a new development, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Gibbet Lane, Horsmonden, on or after 2 January 2013 for up to 6 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from B2162 Maidstone Road to outside number 2.

The alternative route is via B2162 Maidstone Road, Brenchley Road, Furnace Lane, Gibbet Lane.

STONE STREET, CRANBROOK
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

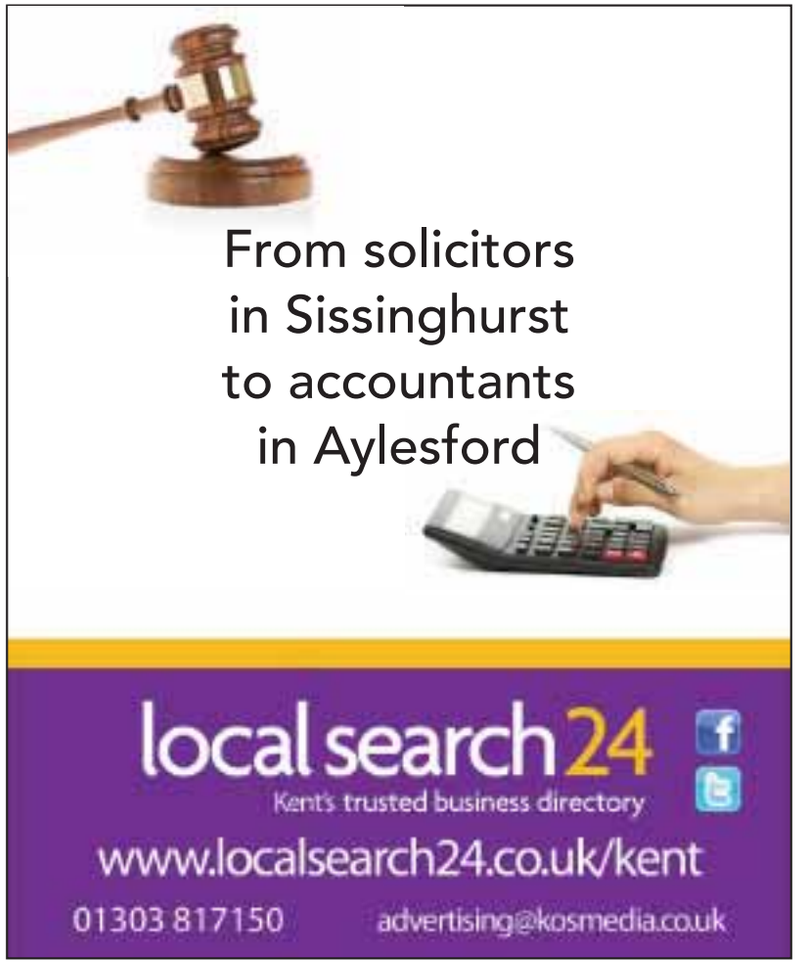
Because a new gas supply is to be installed, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Stone Street, Cranbrook, on or after 3 January 2013 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via High Street, Angley Road, Waterloo Road.

John Burr
Director of Highways & Transportation
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ **Dated 16th December 2012**

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council



CRICKET

Bevan backed to be 'fantastic' as new president

COMEDIAN Bob Bevan MBE has been named as Kent's new president for the 2013 season.

The 67-year-old, who is a well-known after-dinner speaker, author and television radio personality, has frequently appeared on Channel 4's Countdown, with Sir Terry Wogan on Auntie's Bloomers and also presented BBC Radio 5's Six-O-Six show.

SHOCK: Comedian Bob Bevan was surprised

Before becoming an entertainer he also had a highly successful business career, and worked in journalism and PR.

The Tunbridge Wells resident, who grew up in Dulwich, south London, first got involved with the county for current chairman of cricket Graham Johnson's benefit year in 1983, and has been supporting and speaking at club events and players' benefits ever since.

He is believed to be only the second person from the world of show business to become president of a county cricket club, the other being Sir Richard Stilgoe at Surrey in 2005.

Out-going president, former Kent and England captain Mike Denness, felt Bevan would do a good job in the role.

He said: "This has been a tremendous year, and my wife Doreen and I have thoroughly enjoyed all that it has entailed. It has been a huge privilege to serve as the club's president, something I never expected.

"I am extremely pleased Bob has agreed to be the president for 2013. I am certain he will make a fantastic contribution to the club, and I have absolutely no doubt this news will be extremely well received by the supporters of Kent cricket."

Bevan, who was awarded his MBE in 2004 for services to charity and fundraising for sports clubs, said: "I still can't quite believe it as it was not something I had ever considered I could be eligible for.

"I was overwhelmed when I got the call from current president Mike Denness, and remain in that state of mind. When I look at the legends who have gone before me, I find it even harder to take in."

FOOTBALL

Bible of county's old and new grounds is an anorak's dream

By Greg Miles
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Pictures: MIKE FLOATE

GROUND FRENZY: Maidstone's new Gallagher Stadium above, and from left Holmesdale, Crockenhill and Rusthall

MIKE Floate isn't just your average football fan. Most people wouldn't know you'd need to wear a coat while watching Lydd FC all year round, or that the old Garrison Ground in Chatham has a "lovely barrel-roofed stand" at one end.

These golden nuggets of information have been lovingly collected in the past few decades as he's travelled around the county – and country – watching non-league football.

They led to the publication of his first book – The Non-League Football Grounds of Kent – detailing what he thought was every ground in the county in 1995, as well as broadening his horizons to cover other counties.

Twelve years is a long time in the non-league scene, with new stands, facilities, and pitches emerging every season, which has led to an updated version, Football Grounds Frenzy: Kent, published in time for this season's campaign.

The 57-year-old teacher, who is also a former secretary at Kent League side Crockenhill, couldn't deny it's an anorak's dream.

"I suppose you could call it that," he laughed. "I have got to treat it as a hobby. I'm sure someone out there will tell me if I'm missing something.

"It is difficult trying to keep up to date as the county's teams always seem to be moving. I can't tell you how many grounds I've been to, I don't have a list – I've just got an enormous amount of photos."

Unsurprisingly, his favourite ground is Crockenhill, who he began supporting having watched Cray Wanderers and Crystal Palace in his youth while living in south London.

"In terms of atmosphere, I don't think you can beat Tonbridge. Those fans are real, honest non-league fans," he said. "Lydd is a great ground to go to, but you might get a bit cold. You need to take a coat because it's cold even in the summer.

"Another favourite is the Garrison Ground in Chatham which had a lovely old barrel-roof stand at one end. Rusthall is also interesting, they have old stables that serve as changing rooms. What I like about it is they have done something of their own."

While he now thinks he's got all the grounds covered in his latest edition, he's hoping to publish another book in the future – one he's long been researching – about the lost grounds of Kent.

On his hit list are Shornecliffe Barracks in Folkestone, Milton Barracks in Gravesend, the Shorts sports ground in Medway, and another in Borstal, which he's hoping he'll find out more about with the help of locals.

"The intention is to do a lost grounds book with full details and maps of where all the stadiums were," he said. "I've been collecting these photos of the lost grounds for ages. I've got maps and photos going back 20 years.

■ **The book, which includes details of 169 clubs has more than 300 photos over 112 pages, is priced at £14.95 via Amazon.**

BBC SPORTS PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR

Smiley Farah tipped to take coveted title

THEIR achievements are inseparable in a year that will go down in history as one of the greatest in British sport, but who gets your vote as the best personality?

The shortlist of 12 for the BBC Sports Personality of the Year award boasts no fewer than 11 Olympic and Paralympic gold medallists, as well as a Ryder Cup and the Tour de France winner, with the award being decided this Sunday by a public vote.

Sittingbourne's Paralympic wheelchair rugby captain Steve Brown, will be at the ceremony in London and was wary of picking who he thinks should win for fear or retribution from his fellow athletes.

However, he backed double gold medallist Mo Farah, who won the 5,000m and 10,000m in the summer, to take the prize.

"You'd probably think I should vote for fellow wheelchair athlete David Weir, but I like Mo," said Brown. "It's a sports personality award isn't it? There's no doubt about it, all the athletes are fantastic, but whenever you see Mo, whether he's training, competing, on TV, or something else, he's always a smiley, happy man, and he's got a great personality.

"It's difficult because it's sometimes hard to see people's personalities when they are so dedicated and working so hard for something."

Farah might be a good bet and is priced at 17/2. However he's third favourite, with Tour de France winner Bradley Wiggins 2/5 among the bookies, and heptathlon star Jessica Ennis the second favourite.

The full shortlist includes rower Katherine Grainger, cyclists Sarah Storey, Wiggins, and Sir Chris Hoy, sailor Ben Ainslie, heptathlete Ennis, boxer Nicola Adams, golfer Rory McIlroy, tennis star Andy Murray, swimmer Ellie Simmonds, and wheelchair racer David Weir.

The list this year features a more even split of seven men and five women following the controversial all-male list last year.

■ **The programme starts at 7.30pm on BBC One, with the winner decided by a phone vote.**

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